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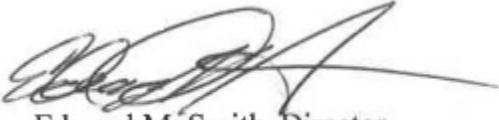
LT. GOVERNOR SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Commissioner

FORMAL TECHNICAL OPINION (FTO) 12

Issued: June 1999 Code Ref. Update: February 2011
Subject: Permissible Penetrations in Roof Assemblies for Residential Groups
Reference: N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.14, Building Subcode, Section 706.6, Exception #4

The language of Section 706.6, Exception 4 in the Building Subcode has led to confusion in the application of the third condition of that exception. Condition 4.1 of Section 706.6 prohibits openings within four feet of a firewall in residential groups.

This section was intended to prohibit skylights, ridge vents, or mechanical and passive exhaust termination points within four feet of a firewall; it was not intended to apply to chimneys and plumbing stacks. Therefore, for the purpose of applying this section, chimneys, plumbing stacks, and electrical service masts are not to be considered prohibited openings, and are permitted to be located within four feet of the firewall. All permissible penetrations shall be sealed at the roof line.



Edward M. Smith, Director
Division of Codes and Standards

PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF N.J.S.A. 52:27D ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, THIS FORMAL TECHNICAL OPINION IS CONSIDERED TO BE BINDING UPON ALL CODE OFFICIALS.