



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF CODES AND STANDARDS
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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

LORI GRIFA
Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

June 23, 2010

Dear Electrical Subcode Officials:

The Department has had discussions with the representatives of GTECH, who are performing the installation of satellite dish antennas and appurtenant wiring at lottery outlets throughout the State. The satellite systems in question are being installed under a contract with the State of New Jersey Lottery Commission.

Minor Work and Inspections

The actual installation of the satellite dish antenna is exempt from permits as a result of a federal preemption. However, when the communication wiring connecting the satellite dish penetrates a rated assembly, the installation of the telecommunications wiring from the antenna to the terminal is considered minor work and thus requires a construction permit (N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.17A(c)4iv). The contractor (GTECH) is required to have its installers identify each retail location where a satellite installation is taking place that penetrates a fire-resistance rated assembly. In these instances, the contractor is required to contact the local code enforcement agency to apply for a permit and, once the work is completed, request an inspection. Because there were questions as to whether permits were required, there was a period of time where a number of satellite dish antennae were installed without obtaining construction permits. In the case of work performed before the issuance of this letter, the contractor is required to identify those installations that involved a penetration through a fire resistance rated assembly and apply for "Minor Work" construction permits for these installations. In cases where no penetration of a rated assembly is necessary, there are no permits required, and therefore, there is no notice required. If work is performed after the issuance of this letter that would require a construction permit, "Minor Work" or otherwise, and none is obtained, the construction official is authorized to issue the appropriate penalty.

The inspection performed is under the jurisdiction of the electrical subcode due to the fact that the communication wiring being installed is regulated by the electrical subcode. Inspectors should focus on Section 300.21 of the National Electrical Code entitled, "Spread of fire or products of combustion," which requires openings around electrical penetrations of fire resistance-rated assemblies to be fire-stopped using an approved method and on Chapter 8 for the material installation and the support of the wiring and the raceway. Again, this type of installation is "Minor Work" therefore, the inspection is based upon what is visible at the time of



the inspection and the certificate of approval needs to state that the work performed substantially complies with the UCC. Finally, the Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors requires that this work be performed either by a New Jersey licensed electrical contractor or by an installer who possesses a Telecommunications Wiring Exemption Certificate.

Fees

The fee calculation for the installation of telecommunications wiring falls within the electrical technical section. The Uniform Construction Code provides that, for electrical fixtures and devices, the fees are to be based upon the number of electrical fixtures or rating of electrical equipment and devices to be installed. Therefore, in this case, the fee is based on the number of “communication points” which are the telecommunication wires installed and connected to the lottery equipment in the building. There is no additional fee that can be charged to look at the penetrations resulting from the installation. This is all part of the inspection related to the total number of “communication points.”

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Code Assistance Unit at (609) 984-7609.

Sincerely,



Cynthia A. Wilk
Director
Division of Codes and Standards

