



David B. Cohen  
Mayor

# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

1164 Centre Street, Newton Center, MA 02459-1584  
Chief: (617) 796-2210 Fire Prevention: (617) 796-2230  
FAX: (617) 796-2211 EMERGENCY: 911



Joseph E. LaCroix  
Chief

July 1, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

It has been brought to the attention of the Newton Fire Department that a large amount of two and three family homes are being converted into condominiums. After a check of the current home fire codes and ordinances, it was discovered that the majority of the systems within these structures are insufficient.

It should be noted that branch circuits, required for the purpose of lighting, central alarm, signal, communications, or other needs for public or common areas of a two-family or multi-family dwelling shall not be supplied from equipment that supplies an individual dwelling unit. This is the **electrical code section 210.25**. Please make sure your electrician has verified that your system is in compliance prior to calling for your fire department inspection for your 26F Certification. All these structures call for independent service for all common areas.

**As of August 1, 2004, the Newton Fire Department will be enforcing this code with no exceptions.**

You should always check with the Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement Division (617-796-2230) when applying for a 26F Certification. They will inform you of the proper system required in your structure for a 26F Certification. A 26F Certification is good for 60 days so allow yourself enough time to install the proper system when needed.

Just a reminder; never mix systems! Once you have hard-wire, all detectors are required to be hard-wired.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Joseph E. LaCroix  
Chief of Department

JEL/cf