

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
2206 EAST MALL
VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA
V6T 1Z8

LIBRARY PROCESSING CENTRE

August 22, 1985

Mr. Bob MacDonald
Safety Director
Library Processing Centre

Dear Sir:

By referring to the minutes of LPC Safety Committee dated August 13th, Item B.5, you will notice our concern regarding the Factory Act and Floor 7 of the Main Library.

Because you are well acquainted with the history and problems of Floor 7 I trust you will enlighten the committee.

1. Is the University exempt from the Factory Act? Perhaps in the past, Floor 7 had an exemption? Do you have the details?
2. Under what technicality was Floor 7 condemned?

Looking forward to your reply,

Sincerely,

Karen Shaw
Secretary, LPC Safety Committee
(5478)

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TO Karen Shaw
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Secretary, LPC Safety Committee.....
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FROM Bob MacDonald
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DATE Aug. 23/85 PHONE 3101.....

re: MAIN LIBRARY - LEVEL 7

The conditions on floor 7 when occupied by Technical Service operations were considered unsatisfactory by the inspector. Mainly, the deficiency was with air quality, that is temperature, humidity and 'stale' air, although with the large number of people in that space it was felt to be overcrowded.

The university was directed to improve the conditions or find suitable alternate space. A building program was initiated, first to determine the requirements and subsequently to find a site and begin construction. Also, (if my memory is correct) additional space on level 1 was obtained to reduce the crowded conditions until a new building was obtained.

Floor 7 was not condemned by the factories inspector, but with the large number of people and the air situation it was considered 'not acceptable' to the standards as defined by the act.

There remain some limitations for use of floor 7, but these relate to building codes and fire safety. This problem applies in fact to the entire Main Library building, as well as other older buildings on campus, in that the practice of the fire marshall and of Physical Plant is to require that the university upgrade to current standards whenever any renovations or changes in use occur. Level 7 therefore cannot be modified, or used as a public or staff area which includes a large number of people, unless upgraded to current requirements. It is also unlikely that level 7 could be changed without making other upgrades to the building generally.

If this is not the kind of information you wanted please let me know.

RWM/pb

