

## CEILING MOUNTED UTILITY COLUMNS FOR OPERATING ROOMS

### ISSUE:

Design and installation requirements for ceiling mounted utility columns.

### BACKGROUND:

There are questions asked by the field about utility columns, and their support and mounting heights. Although various VA standards such as VA Design Guide Surgical Service, Equipment Guide List Chapter 286 Surgical Service, Master Specification Section 22 63 00, Gas Systems for Laboratory and Healthcare Facilities, and Electrical Design Manual for Hospital Projects provide information on these items, they need to further clarify design responsibilities to ensure proper design and construction of utility columns.

### DISCUSSION:

There are two types of ceiling mounted utility columns that may be specified: stationary (rigid) type and retractable (motorized, pneumatically, or manual) type. The Veterans Affairs Medical Center, advised by the design team, should decide on the type of columns and utilities they would need in each column during design development phase of the project.

The utility columns are custom made. The mounting height and clearances vary with the manufacturers. The only thing fixed is the ceiling height, which is to be 9 feet and 6 inches in the operating rooms. Coordination involving structural support, utility connections, physical dimensions and other details is the responsibility of the designer. The designer must also determine, whether the utility columns would be VV (VA supplied and installed), CF (construction appropriation and installed either by VA or contractor) or CC (contractor supplied and installed). If the VAMC does not make a timely decision, then the utility columns would be contractor supplied and installed.

ALERT

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Ensure the designer coordinates all utility requirements with the VAMC and provides necessary details and instructions for the contractor.

**LINKS TO FM TECHNICAL INFORMATION LIBRARY (TIL):**

See VA Master Specification, Section 22 63 00, Gas Systems for Laboratory and Healthcare Facilities, Surgical Service Design Guide, and Equipment Guide List, Chapter 286 at:

<http://www.cfm.va.gov/til/>

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Contact Facilities Quality Service at [til@va.gov](mailto:til@va.gov).

Revised April 19, 2011  
00CFM1A-DA-112