

**Recommended Amendments to the  
2003 International Mechanical Code**  
North Central Texas Council of Governments region

The following sections, paragraphs, and sentences of the *2003 International Mechanical Code* are hereby amended as follows: Standard type is text from the IMC. Underlined type is text inserted. ~~Lined through type is deleted text from the IMC.~~ A double asterisk at the beginning of a section identifies an amendment carried over from the 2000 edition of the code and a triple asterisk identifies a new amendment with the 2003 edition of the code.

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**\*\*Section 102.8; change to read as follows:**

**102.8 Referenced codes and standards.** The codes and standards referenced herein shall be those that are listed in Chapter 15 and such codes, when specifically adopted, and standards shall be considered part of the requirements of this code to the prescribed extent of each such reference. Where differences occur between provisions of this code and the referenced standards, the provisions of this code shall apply. Whenever amendments have been adopted to the referenced codes and standards, each reference to said code and standard shall be considered to reference the amendments as well. Any reference to NFPA 70 or the ICC *Electrical Code* shall mean the *Electrical Code* as adopted.

(Reason: Legal wording to recognize locally adopted codes and amendments adopted with referenced codes.)

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**\*\*Section 302.3; change to read as follows:**

**302.3 Cutting, notching and boring in wood framing.** When permitted by the *International Building Code*, the ~~The~~ cutting, notching and boring of wood framing members shall comply with Sections 302.3.1 through 302.3.4.

(Reason: Reference IBC and its restrictions.)

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**\*\*Section 304.6; delete.**

(Reason: This provision does not reflect standard practice in this area. Consistent with regional amendment to IFGC 305.5.)

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**\*\*Section 304.9; change to read as follows:**

**304.9 Clearances from grade.** Equipment and appliances installed at grade level shall be supported on a level concrete slab or other approved material extending above adjoining grade a minimum of 3 inches (76 mm) or shall be suspended a minimum of 6 inches (152 mm) above adjoining grade.

(Reason: Consistent with current local practice. Consistent with regional amendment to IFGC 305.7.)

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**\*\*Section 306.3; change to read as follows:**

**306.3 Appliances in attics.** Attics containing appliances requiring access shall be provided . . . *{bulk of paragraph unchanged}* . . . from the opening to the appliance. The passageway shall have continuous unobstructed solid flooring not less than 24- 30 inches (610 762 mm) wide. A level service space not less than 30 inches (762 mm) deep and 30 inches (762 mm) wide shall be present at the front or service side of the appliance. The clear access opening dimensions shall be a minimum of 20 inches by 30 inches (508 mm by 762 mm), or larger where such dimensions are not large enough to allow removal of the largest appliance. As a minimum, access to the attic space shall be provided by one of the following:

1. A permanent stair.
2. A pull down stair.
3. An access door from an upper floor level.

**Exception:** The passageway and level service space are not required where the appliance is capable of being serviced and removed through the required opening.

(Reason: To provide a safe means of accessibility to appliances in attics. Consistent with regional amendment to IFGC 306.3.)

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**\*\*Section 306.5; change to read as follows:**

**306.5 Equipment and appliances on roofs or elevated structures.** Where equipment and appliances requiring access are installed on roofs or elevated structures at a an aggregate height exceeding 16 feet (4877 mm), such access shall be provided by a permanent approved means of access, ~~the extent of which shall be from~~ Permanent exterior ladders providing roof access need not extend closer than 8 feet (2438 mm) to the finish grade or floor level below and shall extend to the equipment and appliance's level service space. Such access shall . . . *{bulk of section to read the same}* . . . on roofs having a slope greater than 4 units vertical in 12 units horizontal (33-percent slope).

A receptacle outlet shall be provided at or near the equipment and appliance location in accordance with the Electrical Code.

(Reason: To assure safe access to roof appliances. To provide access to electricity for maintenance of equipment. Consistent with IFGC amendments.)

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**\*\*Add Section 306.6.1 to read as follows:**

**306.6.1 Catwalk.** On roofs having slopes greater than 4 units vertical in 12 units horizontal, a catwalk at least 16 inches in width with substantial cleats spaced not more than 16 inches apart shall be provided from the roof access to the working platform at the appliance.

(Reason: To assure safe access to roof appliances. Consistent with IFGC amendments.)

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**\*\*Add Section 306.7 to read as follows:**

**306.7 Water heaters above ground or floor.** When the mezzanine or platform in which a water heater is installed is more than eight (8) feet (2438 mm) above the ground or floor level, it shall be made accessible by a stairway or permanent ladder fastened to the building.

**306.7.1** Whenever the mezzanine or platform is not adequately lighted or access to a receptacle outlet is not obtainable from the main level, lighting and a receptacle outlet shall be provided in accordance with Section 306.3.1.

(Reason: To provide safe access to water heaters and to provide lighting and receptacle for maintenance of equipment. Consistent with regional amendments to IFGC 306.7 and IPC 502.5.)

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**\*\*Section 307.2.1; modify second sentence to read as follows:**

**307.2.1 Condensate disposal.** Condensate from all cooling coils and evaporators shall be conveyed from the drain pan outlet to an approved place of disposal. Condensate shall not discharge into a street, alley, sidewalk, rooftop, or other areas so as to cause a nuisance.

(Reason: Greater specificity in prohibited locations for condensate discharge. Consistent with regional amendment to IPC 314.2.1.)

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**\*\*\*Section 307.2.2; change to read as follows:**

**307.2.2 Drain pipe materials and sizes.** Components of the condensate disposal system shall be cast iron, galvanized steel, copper, cross-linked polyethylene, polybutylene, polyethylene, ABS, CPVC or PVC pipe or tubing. All components shall be selected for the pressure, and temperature, and exposure rating of the installation. {Remainder unchanged}

(Reason: To require UV protection.)

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**\*\*Section 307.2.3; add item #4 to read as follows:**

4. Discharge, as noted, shall be to a conspicuous point of disposal to alert occupants in the event of a stoppage of the drain. However, the conspicuous point shall not create a hazard such as dripping over a walking surface or other areas so as to create a nuisance.

(Reason: To alert occupants to a condition needing corrective action.)

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**\*\*Section 401.5; add a second exception to read as follows:**

Exceptions:

1. {existing exception unchanged}
2. Toilet room exhaust ducts may terminate in a warehouse or shop area when infiltration of outside air is present.

(Reason: Provide a more reasonable alternative in areas where a large volume of outside air is present.)

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**\*\*Section 403.2; add an exception to read as follows:**

**Exception:** Where the design professional demonstrates that an engineered ventilation system is designed in accordance with ASHRAE 62, the minimum required rate of outdoor air shall be

permitted to be as specified in such engineered system design.

(Reason: Recognize the most commonly used standard as an alternate design method.)

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**\*\*Section 403.2.1; add an item #4 to read as follows:**

4. Toilet rooms within private dwellings that contain only a water closet, lavatory or combination thereof may be ventilated with an approved mechanical recirculating fan or similar device designed to remove odors from the air.

(Reason: Consistent with common local practice. Consistent with regional amendment to IRC R303.3.)

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**\*\*Table 403.3, footnote g: change to read as follows:**

- g. Transfer air permitted in accordance with Section 403.2.2. Toilet rooms within private dwellings that contain only a water closet, lavatory or combination thereof may be ventilated with an approved mechanical recirculating fan or similar device designed to remove odors from the air.

(Reason: Consistent with common local practice.)

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**\*\*Section 501.2; add a third exception to read as follows:**

Exceptions:

1. *{existing exception unchanged}*
2. *{existing exception unchanged}*
3. Toilet room exhaust ducts may terminate in a warehouse or shop area when infiltration of outside air is present.

(Reason: Provide a more reasonable alternative in areas where a large volume of outside air is present.)

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**\*\*Section 504.6; add a sentence to read as follows:**

The size of duct shall not be reduced along its developed length nor at the point of termination.

(Reason: To clarify size requirement. Consistent with regional amendment to IFGC 614.6.)

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**\*\*Section 504.6.1; change to read as follows:**

**504.6.1 Maximum length.** The maximum length of a clothes dryer exhaust duct shall not exceed 25 feet (7620 mm) from the dryer location to the outlet terminal with not more than two bends. When extra bends are installed, the maximum length of the duct shall be reduced 2.5 feet (762 mm) for each 45-degree (0.79 rad) bend and 5 feet (1524 mm) for each 90-degree (1.6 rad) bend that occur after the first two bends, measuring in the direction of airflow. The maximum length of the exhaust duct does not include the transition duct.

*{Exception is unchanged}*

(Reason: To make more consistent with regional practice. Dryer technology has improved to the point

where they should be capable of handling this. Consistent with regional amendment to IFGC 614.6.1.)

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**\*\*Section 506.3.10; change to read as follows:**

**506.3.10 Grease duct enclosure.** A grease duct serving a Type I hood that penetrates a ceiling, wall or floor shall be enclosed ...*{bulk of paragraph unchanged}*... through the use of weather-protected openings. Clearance from the duct to the interior surface of enclosures of combustible construction shall be not less than 18 inches (457 mm). Clearance from the duct to the interior surface of enclosures of noncombustible construction or gypsum wallboard attached to noncombustible structures shall be not less than ~~6 inches (152 mm)~~ 3 inches (76 mm) or more than 12 inches (305 mm). The duct enclosure shall serve a single grease exhaust duct system and shall not contain any other ducts, piping, wiring or systems.

*Delete second exception.*

(Reason: Consistent with common local practice.)

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**\*\*Section 607.2.2; change to read as follows:**

**607.2.2 Hazardous exhaust ducts.** Hazardous exhaust duct systems shall extend directly to the exterior of the building and shall not extend into or through ducts and plenums. Penetration of structural elements shall conform to this section and the *International Building Code* except that fire dampers are not required at penetration of fire-resistance-rated assemblies for hazardous exhaust duct system shall comply with Section 510.

(Reason: To clarify requirements.)

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**\*\*Section 607.5.1; change to read as follows:**

**607.5.1 Fire Walls.** Ducts and air transfer openings permitted in fire walls in accordance with Section 705.11 of the *International Building Code* shall be protected with approved fire dampers installed in accordance with their listing. Hazardous exhaust ducts shall not penetrate fire walls.

(Reason: For clarification.)

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END