



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments

## Recommended Amendments to the 2021 International Mechanical Code

North Central Texas Council of Governments Region

The following sections, paragraphs, and sentences of the *2021 International Mechanical Code (IMC)* 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 2015 edition of the code and a triple asterisk identifies a new or revised amendment of the 2018 edition of the code.

Note: Historically the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has limited Chapter 1 amendments in order to allow each city to insert their local policies and procedures. We now have suggested certain items to be brought to the attention of cities considering adoption of the code that may be of concern to several jurisdictions. **It is still intended to be discretionary to each city to determine which Chapter 1 amendments to include.**

### \*\*\*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 adopted amendments. Any reference to NFPA 70 shall mean the Electrical Code as adopted.

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

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

~~**306.3 Appliances in Attics.** Attics containing appliances shall be provided . . . *{bulk of paragraph unchanged}* . . . side of the appliance. The clear access opening dimensions shall be a minimum of 20 inches by 30 inches (508 mm by 762 mm), and large enough to allow removal of the largest appliance. As a minimum, for access to the attic space, provide one of the following:~~

- ~~1. A permanent stair.~~
- ~~2. A pull-down stair with a minimum 300 lb. (136 kg) capacity.~~
- ~~3. An access door from an upper floor level.~~
- ~~4. Access Panel may be used in lieu of items 1, 2, and 3 with prior approval of the code official due to building conditions.~~

#### **Exceptions:**

- ~~1. The passageway and level service space are not required where the appliance is capable of being serviced and removed. . . . *{remainder of section unchanged}*~~

(Reason: To provide a safe means of accessibility to appliances in attics and to allow for different types of construction limitations. Consistent with regional amendment to International Fuel and Gas Code (IFGC) 306.3.) *the code provides the minimum requirements.*

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

**306.5 Equipment and Appliances on Roofs or Elevated Structures.** Where *equipment* requiring access or appliances are located on an elevated structure or the roof of a building such that personnel will have to climb higher than 16 feet (4877 mm) above grade to access, an interior or exterior means of access shall be provided. Exterior ladders providing roof access need not extend closer than 12 feet (2438 mm) to the finish grade or floor level below and shall extend to the *equipment* and *appliances'* level *service space*. Such access shall . . . {bulk of section to read the same} . . . on roofs having a slope greater than four units vertical in 12 units horizontal (33-percent slope). . . {remainder of text unchanged}.

(Reason: To assure access to roof appliances and provide options to not extend exterior ladders to grade. Consistent with IFGC amendments.)

**\*\*Section 306.5.1; change to read as follows:**

**306.5.1 Sloped Roofs.** Where appliances, *equipment*, fans or other components that require service are installed on a roof having a slope of three units vertical in 12 units horizontal (25 percent slope) or greater and having an edge more than 30 inches (762 mm) above grade at such edge, ~~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 a level platform at the appliance.~~ The level platform shall be provided on each side of the appliance to which access is required for service, repair or maintenance. The platform shall be not less than 30 inches (762 mm) in any dimension and shall be provided with guards. The guards shall extend not less than 42 inches (1067 mm) above the platform, shall be constructed so as to prevent the passage of a 21-inch-diameter (533 mm) sphere and shall comply with the loading requirements for guards specified in the *International Building Code*. . . {remainder of text unchanged}.

(Reason: To assure safe access to roof appliances. Consistent with IFGC amendments.) *The code provides the minimum requirements.*

**\*\*Section 306; add Section 306.6 to read as follows:**

**306.6 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.~~

**Exception:** ~~A maximum 10 gallon water heater (or larger with approval) is capable of being accessed through a lay in ceiling and the water heater installed is not more than ten (10) feet (3048 mm) above the ground or floor level and may be reached with a portable ladder.~~

(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 International Plumbing Code (IPC) 502.5.) *The code provides the minimum requirements.*

**\*\*Section 307.2.3; amend item 2 to read as follows:**

2. ~~A separate overflow drain line shall be connected to the drain pan provided with the equipment. Such overflow drain shall discharge to a conspicuous point of disposal to alert occupants in the event of a stoppage of the primary drain. The overflow drain line shall connect to the drain pan at a higher level than the primary drain connection. 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: Greater specificity in prohibited locations for condensate discharge. Consistent with regional amendment to IPC 314.2.1.) *The code provides the minimum requirements.*

**\*\*Section 403.2.1; add an item 5 to read as follows:**

- ~~5. 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 regional practice. Consistent with regional amendment to International Residential Code (IRC) R303.3.) The code addressed this issue.*

**\*\*Section 501.3; add an exception to read as follows:**

**501.3 Exhaust Discharge.** The air removed by every mechanical exhaust system shall be discharged outdoors at a point where it will not cause a public nuisance and not less than the distances specified in Section 501.3.1. The air shall be discharged to a location from which it cannot again be readily drawn in by a ventilating system. Air shall not be exhausted into an attic, crawl space, or be directed onto walkways.

**Exceptions:**

1. Whole-house ventilation-type attic fans shall be permitted to discharge into the attic space of dwelling units having private attics.
2. Commercial cooking recirculating systems.
3. Where installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and where mechanical or natural ventilation is otherwise provided in accordance with Chapter 4, listed and labeled domestic ductless range hoods shall not be required to discharge to the outdoors.
4. Toilet room exhaust ducts may terminate in a warehouse or shop area when infiltration of outside air is present.

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

**\*\*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 ~~706.11~~ of the International Building Code shall be protected with listed fire dampers installed in accordance with their listing. For hazardous exhaust systems see Section 510.1-510.9 IMC.~~

*(Reason: Correspond with un-amended IBC 710.7.) It is addressed in the code.*

**END**