

**WASHINGTON STATE  
BUILDING CODE**

**CHAPTER 51-52  
2015 Edition**

**INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE**

**Includes adoption of and amendments to  
the 2015 International Fuel Gas Code**

**And adoption of  
the 2015 National Fuel Gas Code (NFPA 54)  
and  
the 2014 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code (NFPA 58)**



**Washington State Building Code Council**

**Effective July 1, 2016**

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International Mechanical Code  
Chapter 51-52 WAC  
Effective July 1, 2016  
Printed March 2016

First Edition based on  
WSR 16-01-148

## *Preface*

**Authority:** The International Mechanical Code (Chapter 51-52 WAC) is adopted by the Washington State Building Code Council pursuant to Chapters 19.27 and 70.92 RCW. This code was first adopted by reference by the Washington State Legislature in 1974. In 1985, the Legislature delegated the responsibility of adoption and amendment of these codes to the State Building Code Council.

**Supersession of Previous Codes:** Chapter 51-52 WAC supersedes Chapter 51-42 WAC.

**Code Precedence:** The State Building Code Act, Chapter 19.27 RCW, establishes the following order of precedence among the documents adopted as parts of the State Building Code:

International Building Code, Standards and amendments -WAC 51-50;  
International Residential Code, Standards and amendments – WAC 51-51;  
International Mechanical Code, Standards and amendments - WAC 51-52;  
International Fire Code, Standards and amendments - WAC 51-54A;  
Uniform Plumbing Code, Standards and amendments - WAC 51-56.

Where there is a conflict between codes, an earlier named code takes precedence over a later named code. In the case of conflict between the duct insulation requirements of the International Mechanical Code and the duct insulation requirements of the Energy Code, the Energy Code, or where applicable, a local jurisdiction's energy code, shall govern.

Where, in any specific case, different sections of this Code specify different materials, methods of construction or other requirements, the most restrictive shall govern. Where there is conflict between a general requirement and a specific requirement, the specific requirement shall be applicable.

**Organization and Numbering:** These rules are written to allow compatible use with the International Mechanical Code. All sections which are amended, deleted, or added are referenced.

**Enforcement:** The State Building Code Act requires that each local jurisdiction enforce the State Building Code within its jurisdiction. Any jurisdiction can contract with another jurisdiction or an inspection agency to provide the mandated enforcement activities.

### **Amendments to the State Building Code:**

The State Building Code Council has adopted review procedures and approval criteria for local amendments. These procedures and criteria are found in Chapter 51-04 WAC. The Council has exempted from its review any amendments to the administrative provisions of the various codes.

- A. **Amendments of Statewide Application:** On a yearly basis the State Building Code Council will consider proposals to amend the State Building Code. The Council is not scheduled to enter formal rulemaking until 2018 as part of its consideration of adoption of the 2018 series of codes.

Proposals to amend the State Building Code shall be made on forms provided by the Building Code Council.

Code Change Proposal Submittal Deadline: March 1st of each year.

- B. **Local Amendments:** Any jurisdiction may amend the State Building Code provided the amendments do not reduce the minimum performance standards of the codes. There are two areas where local amendments are limited or prohibited:

**Prohibited Amendments:** Residential provisions of the State Energy Code (WAC 51-11R), the ventilation requirements in the IMC and IRC (WAC 51-52 and 51-51); any provision of the International Building Code or International Residential Code affecting accessibility; and standards specifically adopted in Chapters 19.27 and 19.27A RCW cannot be amended by any local jurisdiction.

**Residential Amendments:** Amendments by local jurisdictions which affect the construction of single family and multi-family residential buildings must be reviewed and approved by the State Building Code Council before such amendments can be enforced. The State Building Code Act provides the following definition:

Multi-family residential building: means common wall residential buildings that consist of four or fewer units, that do not exceed two stories in height, that are less than 5,000 square feet in area, and that have a one-hour fire-resistive occupancy separation between units.

Application forms for Council review of local amendments are available online at [www.sbcc.wa.gov](http://www.sbcc.wa.gov) or from the State Building Code Council Staff:

Washington State Building Code Council  
Post Office Box 41449  
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**Printing Format:** This version of the rules is published as a series of insert or replacement pages and was designed to be printed back to back. Each page provides instructions for installing them in the model code book. Amendments to the model code which are new or revised from the previous edition of this code are indicated by a line in the margin next to the revised portions.

**Effective Date:** These rules were adopted by the State Building Code Council on November 13, 2015. The rules are effective throughout the state on July 1, 2016. (This version of the code is based on WAC 51-52 as published in WSR 16-01-148. It is subject to review by the State Legislature during the 2016 session.)

**Building Permit Fees:** The activities of the State Building Code Council are supported by permit fees collected by each city and county. Section 19.27.085 of the State Building Code Act requires that a fee of \$4.50 be imposed on each building permit issued by each city and county. In addition, a fee of \$2.00 per unit shall be imposed for each dwelling unit after the first unit, on each building containing more than one residential unit. For the purpose of this fee, WAC 365-110-035 defines building permits as any permit to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, improve, remove, convert or demolish any building or structure regulated by the Building Code. Exempt from the fee are plumbing, electrical, mechanical permits, permits issued to install a mobile/manufactured home, commercial coach or factory built structure, or permits issued pursuant to the International Fire Code.

Each city and county shall remit moneys collected to the state treasury quarterly. No remittance is required until a minimum of \$50.00 has accumulated.

These permit fees are the amounts current in March 2016. Such fees may be changed by the State Legislature.

**Opinions:** Only at the request of local enforcement official, the State Building Code Council may issue interpretations/opinions of those provisions of the State Building Code created by the Council, or provisions of the model codes amended by the Council. Final interpretation authority for any specific permit resides with the local enforcement official.

**WASHINGTON STATE AMENDMENTS  
INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE  
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**CHAPTER 51-52 WAC  
STATE BUILDING CODE ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT  
OF THE 2015 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE**

**WAC 51-52-001 AUTHORITY**

These rules are adopted under the authority of Chapter 19.27 RCW.

**WAC 51-52-002 PURPOSE**

The purpose of these rules is to implement the provisions of Chapter 19.27 RCW, which provides that the State Building Code Council shall maintain the State Building Code in a status which is consistent with the purpose as set forth in RCW 19.27.020. In maintaining the codes the Council shall regularly review updated versions of the codes adopted under the act, and other pertinent information, and shall amend the codes as deemed appropriate by the Council.

**WAC 51-52-003 INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE**

The 2015 edition of the International Mechanical Code published by the International Code Council is hereby adopted by reference with the exceptions noted in this Chapter of the Washington Administrative Code.

**WAC 51-52-004 CONFLICT BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE AND STATE ENERGY CODE  
CHAPTER 51-11 WAC**

In the case of conflict between the duct sealing or insulation requirements of Section 603 or Section 604 of this code and the duct sealing or insulation requirements of Chapter 51-11C/R WAC, the Washington State Energy Code, or where applicable, a local jurisdiction's energy code, the provisions of such energy codes shall govern.

**WAC 51-52-007 EXCEPTIONS**

The exceptions and amendments to the International Mechanical Code contained in the provisions of Chapter 19.27 RCW shall apply in case of conflict with any of the provisions of these rules.

The provisions of this code do not apply to temporary growing structures used solely for the commercial production of horticultural plants including ornamental plants, flowers, vegetables, and fruits. "Temporary growing structure" means a structure that has the sides and roof covered with polyethylene, polyvinyl, or similar flexible synthetic material and is used to provide plants with either frost protection or increased heat retention. A temporary growing structure is not considered a building for purposes of this code.

Codes referenced which are not adopted through RCW 19.27.031 or RCW 19.27A shall not apply unless specifically adopted by the authority having jurisdiction.

**WAC 51-52-008 IMPLEMENTATION**

The International Mechanical Code adopted by Chapter 51-52 WAC shall become effective in all counties and cities of this state on July 1, 2016.

**101.2 Scope.** This code shall regulate the design, installation, maintenance, alteration and inspection of mechanical systems that are permanently installed and utilized to provide control of environmental conditions and related processes within buildings. This code shall also regulate those mechanical systems, system components, equipment and appliances specifically addressed herein. The installation of fuel gas distribution piping and equipment, fuel gas-fired appliances and fuel gas-fired appliance venting systems shall be regulated by the *International Fuel Gas Code*.

**Exceptions:**

1. Detached one- and two-family dwellings and multiple single-family dwellings (townhouses) not more than three stories high with separate means of egress and their accessory structures shall comply with the International Residential Code.
2. The standards for liquefied petroleum gas installations shall be the 2014 Edition of NFPA 58 (Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code) and the 2015 Edition of ANSI Z223.1/NFPA 54 (National Fuel Gas Code).



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**LOCAL EXHAUST.** An exhaust system that uses one or more fans to exhaust air from a specific room or rooms within a dwelling.

**PERMANENT CONSTRUCTION.** Construction that, if removed, would disturb the structural integrity of the building or the fire-resistance rating of a building assembly. |

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**WHOLE HOUSE VENTILATION SYSTEM.** A mechanical ventilation system, including fans, controls, and ducts, which replaces, by direct or indirect means, air from the habitable rooms with outdoor air.

**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), an interior or exterior means of access shall be provided. Such access shall not require climbing over obstructions greater than 30 inches (762 mm) in height or walking on roofs having a slope greater than 4 units vertical in 12 units horizontal (33 percent slope). Such access shall not require the use of portable ladders. Where access involves climbing over parapet walls, the height shall be measured to the top of the parapet wall.

Permanent ladders installed to provide the required access shall comply with the following minimum design criteria:

1. The side railing shall extend above the parapet or roof edge not less than 42 inches (1067 mm).
2. Ladders shall have rung spacing not to exceed 12 inches (305 mm) on center. The uppermost rung shall be a maximum of 24 inches below the upper edge of the roof hatch, roof or parapet, as applicable.
3. Ladders shall have a toe spacing not less than 7 inches (178 mm) deep.
4. There shall be a minimum of 18 inches (457 mm) between rails.
5. Rungs shall have a minimum 0.75-inch (19 mm) diameter and be capable of withstanding a 300-pound (136.1 kg) load.
6. Ladders over 30 feet (9144 mm) in height shall be provided with offset sections and landings capable of withstanding 100 pounds (488.2 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) per square foot. Landing dimensions shall be not less than 18 inches (457 mm) and not less than the width of the ladder served. A guard rail shall be provided on all open sides of the landing. Landing dimensions shall be not less than 18 inches and not less than the width of the ladder served. A guardrail shall be provided on all open sides of the landing.
7. Climbing clearances. The distance from the centerline of the rungs to the nearest permanent object on the climbing side of the ladder shall be a minimum of 30 inches measured perpendicular to the rungs. This

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distance shall be maintained from the point of ladder access to the bottom of the roof hatch. A minimum clear width of 15 inches shall be provided on both sides of the ladder measured from the midpoint of and parallel with the rungs except where cages or wells are installed.

8. Landing required. The ladder shall be provided with a clear and unobstructed bottom landing area having a minimum dimension of 30 inches by 30 inches centered in front of the ladder.
9. Ladders shall be protected against corrosion by approved means.
10. Access to ladders shall be provided at all times.

Catwalks installed to provide the required access shall be not less than 24 inches (610 mm) wide and shall have railings as required for service platforms.

**Exception:** This section shall not apply to Group R-3 occupancies.

**306.6 Appliances above ceilings.** Appliances that are located above the ceiling shall be *accessible* for inspection, service and repair without removing *permanent construction*. Appliances shall be accessible from an access panel or removable ceiling tile with minimum nominal dimensions of 24 inches by 24 inches (609 mm x 609 mm).

The appliance is not required to be removable or replaceable through the access panel or removable ceiling tile. The appliance may be removed or replaced by removing the ceiling or wall assemblies adjacent to the appliance as long as they are not *permanent construction*.

**Exceptions:**

1. This section shall not apply to replacement appliances installed in existing compartments and alcoves where the working space clearances are in accordance with the equipment or appliance manufacturer's installation instructions.
2. A smaller access panel or removable ceiling tile shall be permitted when allowed by the equipment or appliance manufacturer's installation instructions.

**307.2.3 Auxiliary and secondary drain systems.** In addition to the requirements of Section 307.2.1, where damage to any building components could occur as a result of overflow from the *equipment* primary condensate removal system, one of the following auxiliary protection methods shall be provided for each cooling coil or fuel-fired *appliance* that produces condensate:

1. An auxiliary drain pan with a separate drain shall be provided under the coils on which condensation will occur. The auxiliary pan drain shall discharge to a conspicuous point of disposal to alert occupants in the event of a stoppage of the primary drain. The pan shall have a minimum depth of 1



1/2 inches (38 mm), shall not be less than 3 inches (76 mm) larger than the unit or the coil dimensions in width and length and shall be constructed of corrosion-resistant material. Galvanized sheet steel pans shall have a minimum thickness of not less than 0.0236 inch (0.6010 mm) (No. 24 gage). Nonmetallic pans shall have a minimum thickness of not less than 0.0625 inch (1.6 mm).

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.
3. An auxiliary drain pan without a separate drain line shall be provided under the coils on which condensate will occur. Such pan shall be equipped with a water-level detection device conforming to UL 508 that will shut off the *equipment* served prior to overflow of the pan. The auxiliary drain pan shall be constructed in accordance with Item 1 of this section.
4. A water-level detection device conforming to UL 508 shall be provided that will shut off the *equipment* served in the event that the primary drain is blocked. The device shall be installed in the primary drain line, the overflow drain line, or in the equipment-supplied drain pan, located at a point higher than the primary drain line connection and below the overflow rim of such pan.

**Exceptions:**

1. Fuel-fired appliances that automatically shut down operation in the event of a stoppage in the condensate drainage system.
2. Unducted fan coil units where there is no factory option available for water-level detection devices and which are installed directly within the occupied space.

**307.2.4.1 Ductless mini-split sytem traps.** Ductless mini-split equipment that produces condensate shall be provided with an inline check valve located in the drain line, a trap, or other means of condensate drainage in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

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**401.2 Ventilation required.** Every occupied space other than enclosed parking garages and buildings used for repair of automobiles shall be ventilated in accordance with Section 401.2.1, 401.2.2 or 401.2.3. Enclosed parking garages and buildings used for the repair of automobiles shall be ventilated by mechanical means in accordance with Sections 403 and 404.

**401.2.1 Group R occupancies.** Ventilation in Group R occupancies shall be provided in accordance with Section 403.8.

**401.2.2 Ambulatory care facilities and Group I-2 occupancies.** Ambulatory care facilities and Group I-2 occupancies shall be ventilated by mechanical means in accordance with Section 407.

**401.2.3 All other occupancies.** Ventilation in all other occupancies shall be provided by natural means in accordance with Section 402 or by mechanical means in accordance with Sections 403.1 to 403.7.

**401.3 When required.** Group R occupancies shall be vented continuously or intermittently in accordance with Section 403.8. Ventilation in all other occupancies shall be provided during the periods that the room or space is occupied.

**401.7 Testing and balancing.** At the discretion of the building official, flow testing may be required to verify that the mechanical system(s) satisfies the requirements of this chapter. Flow testing may be performed using flow hood measuring at the intake or exhaust points of the system, in-line pitot tube, or pitot-transverse type measurement systems in the duct, short term tracer gas measurements, or other means approved by the building official.

**403.1 Ventilation system.** Mechanical ventilation shall be provided by a method of supply air and return or exhaust air. The amount of supply air shall be approximately equal to the amount of return and exhaust air. The system shall not be prohibited from producing negative or positive pressure. The system to convey ventilation air shall be designed and installed in accordance with Chapter 6.

**403.2 Outdoor air required.** The minimum outdoor airflow rate shall be determined in accordance with Section 403.3.

**Exceptions:**

1. Where the registered design professional demonstrates that an engineered ventilation system design will prevent the maximum concentration of contaminants from exceeding that obtainable by the rate of outdoor air ventilation determined in accordance with Section 403.3, the minimum required rate of outdoor air shall be reduced in accordance with such engineered system design.
2. Alternate systems designed in accordance with ASHRAE Standard 62.1 Section 6.2, Ventilation Rate Procedure, shall be permitted.

**403.2.1 Recirculation of air.** The air required by Section 403.3 shall not be recirculated. Air in excess of that required by Section 403.3 shall not be prohibited from being recirculated as a component of supply air to building spaces, except that:

1. Ventilation air shall not be recirculated from one dwelling to another or to dissimilar occupancies.
2. Supply air to a swimming pool and associated deck areas shall not be recirculated unless such air is dehumidified to maintain the relative humidity of the area at 60 percent or less. Air from this area shall not be recirculated to other spaces where 10 percent or more of the resulting supply airstream consists of air recirculated from these spaces.
3. Where mechanical exhaust is required by Note b in Table 403.3.1.1, recirculation of air from such spaces shall be prohibited. All air supplied to such spaces shall be exhausted, including any air in excess of that required by Table 403.3.1.1.

(Item 4 is not adopted.)

**403.3 Outdoor air and local exhaust airflow rates.** Group R-2, R-3 and R-4 occupancies three stories and less in height above grade plan shall be provided with outdoor air and local exhaust in accordance with Section 403.8. All other buildings intended to be occupied shall be provided with outdoor air and local exhaust in accordance with Section 403.3.1.

**403.3.1.1 Outdoor airflow rate.** Ventilation systems shall be designed to have the capacity to supply the minimum outdoor airflow rate determined in accordance with this section. In each occupiable space, the ventilation system shall be designed to deliver the required rate of outdoor airflow to the breathing zone. The occupant load utilized for design of the ventilation system shall not be less than the number determined from the estimated maximum occupant load rate indicated in Table 403.3.1.1. Ventilation rates for occupancies not represented in Table 403.3.1.1 shall be those for a listed occupancy classification that is most similar in terms of occupant density, activities and building construction; or shall be determined by an approved engineering analysis. The ventilation system shall be designed to supply the required rate of ventilation air continuously during the period the building is occupied, except as otherwise stated in other provisions of the code.

With the exception of smoking lounges, the ventilation rates in Table 403.3.1.1 are based on the absence of smoking in occupiable spaces. Where smoking is

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anticipated in a space other than a smoking lounge, the ventilation system serving the space shall be designed to provide ventilation over and above that required by Table 403.3.1.1 in accordance with accepted engineering practice.

**Exception:** Where occupancy density is known and documented in the plans, the outside air rate may be based on the design occupant density. Under no circumstance shall the occupancies used result in outside air less than one-half that resulting from application of Table 403.3.1.1 estimated maximum occupancy rates.

**403.3.2 Group R-2, R-3 and R-4 occupancies.** This section is not adopted. See Section 403.8

**403.3.2.1 Outdoor air for dwelling units.** This section is not adopted.

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**403.3.2.2 Outdoor air for other spaces.** This section is not adopted.

**403.3.2.3 Local exhaust.** This section is not adopted.

**For Section 403.8, Ventilation for Group R occupancies, see insert pages following page 40.**

**Note:** There are no Sections 403.4, 403.5, 403.6 or 403.7. The numbering from the 2012 edition was retained for Section 403.8 for ease of use.

**407.1 General.** Mechanical ventilation for health care facilities licensed by Washington state shall be designed and installed in accordance with this code and the following provisions of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC):

1. Mechanical ventilation in ambulatory care facilities shall comply with chapter 246-330 WAC.
2. Mechanical ventilation for acute care hospitals shall comply with chapter 246-320 WAC.
3. Mechanical ventilation for nursing homes shall comply with chapter 388-97 WAC.

Mechanical ventilation for unlicensed ambulatory care facilities shall be designed and installed in accordance with this code and ASHRAE 170.

**404.4 Automobile repair facilities.** In buildings used for the repair of automobiles, each repair stall shall be equipped with an exhaust extension duct, extending to the outside of the building. Exhaust extension duct over 10 feet in length shall mechanically exhaust at least 300 cfm. Connecting offices and waiting rooms shall be supplied with conditioned air under positive pressure.



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**TABLE 403.3.1.1—continued  
MINIMUM VENTILATION RATES**

| OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION  | OCCUPANT DENSITY #/100FT <sup>2a</sup>  | PEOPLE OUTDOOR AIRFLOW RATE IN BREATHING ZONE R <sub>p</sub> CFM/PERSON | AREA OUTDOOR AIRFLOW RATE IN BREATHING ZONE R <sub>a</sub> CFM/FT <sup>2a</sup> | EXHAUST AIRFLOW RATE CFM/FT <sup>2</sup> |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Office</b>   |   |   |   |  |
| Conference rooms  | 50  | 5   | 0.06  | --                                       |
| Kitchenettes <sup>k</sup>   | --  | --  | --  | 0.30                                     |
| Office spaces   | 5   | 5   | 0.06  | --                                       |
| Reception areas   | 30  | 5   | 0.06  | --                                       |
| Telephone/data entry  | 60  | 5   | 0.06  | --                                       |
| Main entry lobbies  | 10  | 5   | 0.06  | --                                       |
| <b>Private dwellings, single and multiple</b>   |   |   |   |  |
| Garages, common for multiple units <sup>b</sup>   | --  | --  | --  | 0.75                                     |
| Kitchens <sup>b</sup>   | --  | --  | --  | 25/100 <sup>f</sup>                      |
| Living areas <sup>c</sup>   | Based on the number of bedrooms. First bedroom, 2; each additional bedroom, 1 | See Tables 403.8.1 and 403.8.5.1  | --  | --                                       |
| Toilet rooms, bathrooms and laundry areas <sup>g,i</sup>  |   |   | --  | 20/50 <sup>f</sup>                       |
| <b>Public spaces</b>  |   |   |   |  |
| Corridors serving other than Group R occupancies  | --  | --  | 0.06  | --                                       |
| Corridors serving Group R dwelling or sleeping units with whole house exhaust system            | --  | --  | 0.12  | --                                       |
| Corridors serving Group R dwelling or sleeping units with other than whole house exhaust system | --  | --  | 0.06  | --                                       |
| Courtrooms  | 70  | 5   | 0.06  | --                                       |
| Elevator car  | --  | --  | --  | 1  |
| Elevator lobbies in parking garage  | --  | --  | 1.0   | --                                       |
| Legislative chambers  | 50  | 5   | 0.06  | --                                       |
| Libraries   | 10  | 5   | 0.12  | --                                       |
| Museums (children's)  | 40  | 7.5   | 0.12  | --                                       |
| Museums/galleries   | 40  | 7.5   | 0.06  | --                                       |
| Places of religious worship   | 120   | 5   | 0.06  | --                                       |
| Shower room (per showerheat) <sup>g, k</sup>  | --  | --  | --  | 50/20 <sup>f</sup>                       |
| Smoking lounges <sup>b</sup>  | 70  | 60  | --  | --                                       |
| Toilet rooms—Public <sup>g, k</sup>   | --  | --  | --  | 50/70 <sup>e</sup>                       |

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**TABLE 403.3.1.1—continued  
MINIMUM VENTILATION RATES**

| <b>OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION</b>                        | <b>OCCUPANT DENSITY #/100FT<sup>2a</sup></b> | <b>PEOPLE OUTDOOR AIRFLOW RATE IN BREATHING ZONE R<sub>p</sub> CFM/PERSON</b> | <b>AREA OUTDOOR AIRFLOW RATE IN BREATHING ZONE R<sub>a</sub> CFM/FT<sup>2a</sup></b> | <b>EXHAUST AIRFLOW RATE CFM/FT<sup>2</sup></b> |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Sports and amusement</b>                            |  |   |  |  |
| Disco/dance floors                                     | 100  | 20  | 0.06   | --   |
| Bowling alleys (seating areas)                         | 40   | 10  | 0.12   | --   |
| Game arcades   | 20   | 7.5   | 0.18   | --   |
| Ice arenas, without combustion engines <sup>j</sup>    | --   | --  | 0.30   | 0.5  |
| Gym, stadium, arena (play area) <sup>j</sup>           | --   | --  | 0.30   | --   |
| Spectator areas  | 150  | 7.5   | 0.06   | --   |
| Swimming pools (pool and deck area)                    | --   | --  | 0.48   | --   |
| Health club/aerobics room                              | 40   | 20  | 0.06   | --   |
| Health club/weight room                                | 10   | 20  | 0.06   | --   |
| <b>Storage</b>   |  |   |  |  |
| Janitor closets, trash rooms, recycling rooms          | --   | --  | --   | 1.0  |
| Repair garages, enclosed parking garage <sup>b,d</sup> | --   | --  | --   | 0.75   |
| Storage rooms, chemical                                | --   | --  | --   | 1.5  |
| Warehouses   | --   | --  | 0.06   | --   |

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**TABLE 403.3.1.1—continued  
MINIMUM VENTILATION RATES**

| OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION                | OCCUPANT DENSITY #/100FT <sup>2a</sup> | PEOPLE OUTDOOR AIRFLOW RATE IN BREATHING ZONE R <sub>p</sub> CFM/PERSON | AREA OUTDOOR AIRFLOW RATE IN BREATHING ZONE R <sub>a</sub> CFM/FT <sup>2a</sup> | EXHAUST AIRFLOW RATE CFM/FT <sup>2</sup> |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Workrooms</b>                        |  |   |   |  |
| Bank vaults/safe deposit                | 5                                      | 5   | 0.06  | --                                       |
| Computer (without printing)             | 4                                      | 5   | 0.06  | --                                       |
| Copy, printing rooms                    | 4                                      | 5   | 0.06  | 0.5                                      |
| Darkrooms                               | --                                     | --  | --  | 1.0                                      |
| Freezer and refrigerated spaces (<50°F) | 0                                      | 10  | 0   | 0  |
| Meat processing <sup>c</sup>            | 10                                     | 15  | --  | --                                       |
| Pharmacy (prep area)                    | 10                                     | 5   | 0.18  | --                                       |
| Photo studios                           | 10                                     | 5   | 0.12  | --                                       |

- a. Based upon net occupiable floor area.
- b. Mechanical exhaust required and the recirculation of air from such spaces is prohibited. Recirculation of air that is contained completely within such spaces shall not be prohibited (see Section 403.2.1, Item 3).
- c. Spaces unheated or maintained below 50°F are not covered by these requirements unless the occupancy is continuous.
- d. Ventilation systems in enclosed parking garages shall comply with Section 404.
- e. Rates are per water closet or urinal. The higher rate shall be provided where the exhaust system is designed to operate intermittently. The lower rate shall be permitted only where the exhaust system is designed to operate continuously while occupied.
- f. Rates are per room unless otherwise indicated. The higher rate shall be provided where the exhaust system is designed to operate intermittently. The lower rate shall be permitted only where the exhaust system is designed to operate continuously while occupied.
- g. Mechanical exhaust is required and recirculation is prohibited.
- h. For nail salons, manicure and pedicure stations shall be provided with a *source capture system* capable of exhausting not less than 50 cfm per station. Exhaust inlets shall be located in accordance with Section 502.20. Where one or more required source capture systems operate continuously during occupancy, the exhaust rate from such systems shall be permitted to be applied to the exhaust flow rate required by Table 403.3.1.1 for the nail salon.
- i. A laundry area within a kitchen or bathroom is not required to have local exhaust. For the laundry area to qualify as being within the kitchen, the laundry room door must open directly into the kitchen and not into an adjacent corridor. Where there are doors that separate the laundry area from the kitchen or bathroom, the door shall be louvered.
- j. When combustion equipment is intended to be used on the playing surface, additional dilution ventilation and/or source control shall be provided.
- k. Kitchenettes require exhaust when they contain a domestic cooking appliance range or oven that is installed in accordance with Table 507.2.2. Kitchenettes that only contain a microwave oven are not required to have mechanical exhaust. A kitchenette may not contain commercial cooking appliances that require Type I or Type II exhaust as these occupancies are required to be exhausted to the kitchen category in Table 403.3.1.1.

**403.8 Ventilation systems for Group R occupancies.**

Each dwelling unit or sleeping unit shall be equipped with local exhaust and whole house ventilation systems and shall comply with Sections 403.8.1 through 403.8.11. All occupied spaces, including public corridors, other than the Group R dwelling and sleeping unit, that support the Group R occupancy shall meet the ventilation requirements of Section 402 or Sections 403.1 to 403.7.

**403.8.1 Minimum ventilation performance.** Ventilation systems shall be designed and installed to satisfy the ventilation requirements of Table 403.3.1.1 or Table 403.8.1. Breathing zone ventilation rates from Table 403.3.1.1 shall be calculated per Section 403.3.1.1 and corrected per zone air distribution effectiveness requirements per Section 403.3.1.2.

**TABLE 403.8.1  
VENTILATION RATES FOR ALL GROUP R  
PRIVATE DWELLINGS, SINGLE AND MULTIPLE  
(Continuously Operating Systems)**

| Floor Area<br>(ft <sup>2</sup> ) | Bedrooms <sup>a</sup> |     |     |     |     |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                                  | 0-1                   | 2-3 | 4-5 | 6-7 | >7  |
| <500                             | 30                    | 40  | 45  | 55  | 60  |
| 500 - 1000                       | 45                    | 55  | 60  | 70  | 75  |
| 1001 - 1500                      | 60                    | 70  | 75  | 85  | 90  |
| 1501 - 2000                      | 75                    | 85  | 90  | 100 | 105 |
| 2001 - 2500                      | 90                    | 100 | 105 | 115 | 120 |
| 2501 - 3000                      | 105                   | 115 | 120 | 130 | 135 |
| 3001 - 3500                      | 120                   | 130 | 135 | 145 | 150 |
| >3500                            | 135                   | 145 | 150 | 160 | 165 |

- a. Ventilation rates in table are minimum outdoor airflow rates measured in cfm.

**403.8.2 Control and operation.**

1. Location of controls. Controls for all ventilation systems shall be readily accessible by the occupant.
2. Instructions. Operating instructions for whole house ventilation systems shall be provided to the occupant by the installer of the system.
3. Local ventilation systems. Local ventilation systems shall be controlled by manual switches, dehumidistats, timers, or other approved means.
4. Continuous whole house ventilation systems. Continuous whole house ventilation systems shall operate continuously and be equipped with an override control. A "fan on" switch shall be permitted as an override control. Controls shall be capable of operating the ventilation system without energizing other energy-consuming appliances. A clearly visible label shall be affixed to the controls that reads "Whole House Ventilation (see operating instructions)."
5. Intermittent whole house ventilation systems. Intermittent whole house ventilation systems shall comply with the following:

- 5.1 They shall be capable of operating intermittently and continuously.
- 5.2 They shall have controls capable of operating the exhaust fans, forced-air system fans, or supply fans without energizing other energy-consuming appliances.
- 5.3 The ventilation rate shall be adjusted according to the exception in Section 403.8.5.1.
- 5.4 The system shall be designed so that it can operate automatically based on the type of control timer installed.
- 5.5 The intermittent mechanical ventilation system shall operate at least one hour out of every four.
- 5.6 The system shall have a manual control and automatic control, such as a 24-hour clock timer.
- 5.7 At the time of final inspection, the automatic control shall be set to operate the whole house fan according to the schedule used to calculate the whole house fan sizing.
- 5.8 A label shall be affixed to the control that reads "Whole House Ventilation (see operating instructions)."

**Exception:** Engineered central ventilation systems serving dwelling units or sleeping units are not required to have individual controls for each dwelling unit or sleeping unit when designed for continuous operation and approved by the code official.

**403.8.3 Outdoor air intake locations.** Outdoor air intakes shall be classified as either operable openings or mechanical air intakes and shall be located per the following criteria. The intake locations for operable openings and mechanical air intakes shall comply with the following:

1. Openings for mechanical air intakes shall comply with Section 401.4. Operable openings shall comply with Section 401.4 items 2 and 4 only.
2. Intake openings shall not be located closer than 10 feet from an appliance vent outlet unless such vent outlet is 3 feet above the outdoor air inlet. The vent shall be permitted to be closer if specifically allowed by Chapter 8 or by the International Fuel Gas Code.
3. Intake openings shall be located where they will not pick up objectionable odors, fumes, or flammable vapors.
4. Intake openings shall be located where they will not take air from a hazardous or unsanitary location.
5. Intake openings shall be located where they will not take air from a room or space having a fuel-burning appliance.
6. Intake openings shall not be located closer than 10 feet from a vent opening of a plumbing drainage system unless the vent opening is at least 3 feet above the air inlet.
7. Intake openings shall not be located where they will take air from an attic, crawl space, or garage.

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8. Intake openings shall not be located on asphalt roofs unless it is shown that no other location is permissible. In such cases, the inlet opening shall be located a minimum of 2 feet from the nearest surface of the asphalt roofing, measured from the intake opening.

**403.8.4 Local ventilation requirements.** Local exhaust ventilation systems shall exhaust at least the volume of air required for exhaust in Table 403.3.1.1. Exhaust shall be provided in each kitchen, bathroom, water closet, laundry area, indoor swimming pool, spa, and other room where water vapor or cooking odor is produced.

**403.8.4.1 Local exhaust systems.** Exhaust systems shall be designed and installed to meet all of the criteria below:

1. Local exhaust shall be discharged outdoors.
2. Exhaust outlets shall comply with Section 501.3.
3. Pressure equalization shall comply with Section 501.4.
4. Exhaust ducts in systems which are designed to operate intermittently shall be equipped with back-draft dampers.
5. All exhaust ducts in unconditioned spaces shall be insulated to a minimum of R-4.
6. Terminal outlet elements shall have at least the equivalent net free area of the ductwork.
7. Terminal outlet elements shall be screened or otherwise protected as required by Section 501.3.2.
8. Exhaust fans in separate dwelling units or sleeping units shall not share common exhaust ducts unless the system is engineered for this operation.
9. Where permitted by Chapter 5, multiple local exhaust ducts may be combined. If more than one of the exhaust fans in a dwelling unit or sleeping unit shares

a common exhaust duct then each exhaust fan shall be equipped with a back-draft damper to prevent the recirculation of exhaust air from one room to another room via the exhaust ducting system.

**403.8.4.2 Local exhaust fans.** Exhaust fan construction and sizing shall meet the following criteria.

1. Exhaust fans shall be tested and rated in accordance with the airflow and sound rating procedures of the Home Ventilating Institute (HVI 915, HVI Loudness Testing and Rating Procedure, HVI 916, HVI Airflow Test Procedure, and HVI 920, HVI Product Performance Certification Procedure).
  - Exception:** Where a range hood or down draft exhaust fan is used for local exhaust for a kitchen, the device is not required to be rated per these standards.
2. Installation of the system or equipment shall be carried out in accordance with manufacturers' installation instructions.
3. Fan airflow rating and duct system shall be designed and installed to deliver at least the exhaust airflow required by Table 403.3.1.1. The airflows required refer to the delivered airflow of the system as installed and tested using a flow hood, flow grid, or other airflow measurement device.

**Exceptions:**

1. An exhaust airflow rating at a pressure of 0.25 in. w.g. may be used, provided the duct sizing meets the prescriptive requirements of Table 403.8.4.2.
2. Where a range hood or down draft exhaust fan is used to satisfy the local ventilation requirements for kitchens, the range hood or down draft exhaust shall not be less than 100 cfm at 0.10 in. w.g.

**TABLE 403.8.4.2  
PRESCRIPTIVE EXHAUST DUCT SIZING**

| Fan Tested cfm at 0.25 inches w.g. | Minimum Flex Diameter | Maximum Length in Feet | Minimum Smooth Diameter | Maximum Length in Feet | Maximum Elbows <sup>a</sup> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 50                                 | 4 inches              | 25                     | 4 inches                | 70                     | 3                           |
| 50                                 | 5 inches              | 90                     | 5 inches                | 100                    | 3                           |
| 50                                 | 6 inches              | No Limit               | 6 inches                | No Limit               | 3                           |
| 80                                 | 4 inches <sup>b</sup> | NA                     | 4 inches                | 20                     | 3                           |
| 80                                 | 5 inches              | 15                     | 5 inches                | 100                    | 3                           |
| 80                                 | 6 inches              | 90                     | 6 inches                | No Limit               | 3                           |
| 100                                | 5 inches <sup>b</sup> | NA                     | 5 inches                | 50                     | 3                           |
| 100                                | 6 inches              | 45                     | 6 inches                | No Limit               | 3                           |
| 125                                | 6 inches              | 15                     | 6 inches                | No Limit               | 3                           |
| 125                                | 7 inches              | 70                     | 7 inches                | No Limit               | 3                           |

- a. For each additional elbow, subtract 10 feet from length.
- b. Flex ducts of this diameter are not permitted with fans of this size.

(Insert as Page 40a)

**403.8.5 Whole house ventilation requirements.** Each dwelling unit or sleeping unit shall be equipped with one of the following four types of mechanical whole house ventilation systems: A system using exhaust fans (see Section 403.8.6); a system integrated with forced-air systems (see Section 403.8.7); a system using supply fans (see Section 403.8.8); or a heat or energy recovery ventilation system (see Section 403.8.9). The whole house exhaust system is permitted to be one of the local exhaust systems required by Section 403.8.4 as long as the requirements of this section, in addition to the requirement of Section 403.8.5, are met.

**Exception:** Additions, alterations, renovations or repairs to a mechanical system that is part of a building addition with less than 500 square feet of conditioned floor are exempt from the requirements for whole house ventilation systems, Section 403.8.5.

**403.8.5.1 Outdoor air.** Outdoor air shall be distributed to each habitable space.

Where outdoor air supply intakes are separated from exhaust vents by doors, means shall be provided to ensure airflow to all separated habitable spaces by installing distribution ducts, installed grilles, transoms, doors undercut to a minimum of 1/2-inch above the surface of the finish floor covering, or other similar means where permitted by the International Building Code.

The mechanical system shall operate continuously to supply at least the volume of outdoor air required in Table 403.3.1.1 or Table 403.8.1.

**Exception:** Intermittently operating ventilation systems: The whole house mechanical ventilation system is permitted to operate intermittently where the system has controls that enable operation for not less than 25 percent of each 4-hour segment and the ventilation rate prescribed in Table 403.3.1.1 or Table 403.8.1 is multiplied by the factor determined in accordance with Table 403.8.5.1.

**TABLE 403.8.5.1  
INTERMITTENT WHOLE HOUSE MECHANICAL  
VENTILATION RATE FACTORS<sup>a,b</sup>**

| Run-Time % in Each 4-hour Segment | 25% | 33% | 50% | 66% | 75% | 100% |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Factor <sup>a</sup>               | 4   | 3   | 2   | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.0  |

- For ventilation system run-time values between those given, the factors are permitted to be determined by interpolation.
- Extrapolation beyond the table is prohibited.

**403.8.5.2 Whole house supply system general requirements.** Whole house ventilation systems integrated with a forced-air system, systems using supply fans and systems using a heat or energy recovery ventilation system shall comply with the following.

- Outdoor air louvers shall be adequately sized for the required airflow and shall comply with Section 401.5. Outdoor air intake locations shall comply with mechanical air intakes requirements of Section 403.8.3.

- Outdoor air ducts for dedicated or central supply systems and exhaust ducts for heat or energy recovery systems shall be provided with a means for balancing the system to the required airflow via balance dampers or other devices.
- Outdoor air ducts, for dedicated or central systems shall be provided with motorized dampers.
 

**Exceptions:**

  - Outdoor air ducts at heat or energy ventilation systems are not required to have motorized dampers.
  - Outdoor air ducts at continuous ventilation systems are not required to have motorized dampers.
- Outdoor air ducts in the conditioned space shall be insulated to a minimum of R-4. In heat or energy recovery ventilation systems, ducts upstream of the heat exchanger shall also be insulated to at least R-4.
- All outdoor air ducts shall be designed and installed to deliver at least the outdoor airflow required by Section 403.8.5.1. The airflows required refer to the delivered airflow of the system as installed and tested using a flow hood, flow grid, or other airflow measurement device.

**Exception:** The outdoor air duct for supply fan systems and heat or energy recovery systems may be prescriptively sized per Table 403.8.5.2 for dedicated outdoor air ducts upstream of the supply fan. Supply fans shall have the capacity to provide the amount of outdoor air required by Section 403.8.5.1 at 0.40 in. w.g. as per HVI 916 (April 1995). When prescriptively sized the system shall be tested and balanced using a flow hood, flow-grid, or other airflow measurement device.

- Whole house ventilation controls for intermittent operation shall allow concurrent operation of the forced-air fan and the associated outdoor air motorized damper.
- Whole house ventilation controls for continuous operation shall be provided at the forced-air fan.
 

**Exception:** Engineered central ventilation systems serving dwelling units or sleeping units are not required to have individual controls for each dwelling unit or sleeping unit when designed for continuous operation and approved by the code official.

**TABLE 403.8.5.2  
PRESCRIPTIVE SUPPLY FAN DUCT SIZING**

| Supply Fan Tested CFM at 0.40" w.g. |                              |                                |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Specified Volume from Table 408.1   | Minimum Smooth Duct Diameter | Minimum Flexible Duct Diameter |
| 50-90 cfm                           | 4 inch                       | 5 inch                         |
| 90-150 cfm                          | 5 inch                       | 6 inch                         |
| 150-120 cfm                         | 6 inch                       | 7 inch                         |
| 250-400 cfm                         | 7 inch                       | 8 inch                         |

(Insert as Page 40b)

**403.8.6 Whole house ventilation with exhaust fan systems.** This section establishes minimum requirements for mechanical whole house ventilation systems using exhaust fans.

**403.8.6.1 Outdoor air.** Exhaust fan only ventilation systems shall provide outdoor air to each occupiable space through one of the following methods:

1. Outdoor air may be drawn through air inlets installed in exterior walls or windows. The air inlets shall comply with all of the following:
  - 1.1 Inlets shall have controllable, secure openings and shall be designed to not compromise the thermal properties of the building envelope.
  - 1.2 Inlets shall be accessible to occupants, including compliance with Section 1109.13 of the *International Building Code* for designated *accessible units*, *Type A units* and *Type B units*.
  - 1.3 Inlets shall be screened or otherwise protected from entry by insects, leaves, or other material.
  - 1.4 Inlets shall provide not less than 4 square inches of net free area of opening for each 10 cfm of outdoor air required in Table 403.3.1.1 or Table 403.8.1.
  - 1.5 Any inlet or combination of inlets which provide 10 cfm at 10 Pascals as determined by the Home Ventilation Institute Air Flow Test Standard (HVI 901 (November 1996)) are deemed equivalent to 4 square inches of net free area.
  - 1.6 Each occupiable space shall have a minimum of one air inlet that has a minimum of 4 square inches of net free area.
2. Outdoor air may be drawn in through operable openings to the outdoors. Each habitable space shall be provided with operable openings with an openable area of not less than 4 square inches of net free area of opening for each 10 cfm of outdoor air required by Table 403.3.1.1 or Table 403.8.1. Doors exiting to a corridor, court or public way shall not be used to provide outdoor air. The operable openings shall comply with the following:
  - 2.1 Openings shall be controllable, securable, and shall be designed to not compromise the thermal properties of the building envelope.
  - 2.2 Openings shall be accessible to occupants, including compliance with Section 1109.13 of the *International Building Code* for designated *accessible units*, *Type A units* and *Type B units*.
  - 2.3 Openings shall be screened or otherwise protected from entry by leaves or other material.

3. For interior adjoining spaces without *outdoor air* openings, one of the following two options shall be used to ventilate the interior adjoining space:
  - 3.1 Provide a whole house transfer fan at the interior adjoining space sized to provide a minimum of the ventilation rate required per Section 403.8.5.1. The transfer fan shall circulate air between the interior room or space and the adjacent habitable space. The transfer fan may operate continuously or intermittently using controls per Section 403.8.2.
  - 3.2 Provide a permanent opening to the interior adjoining space. Opening shall be unobstructed and shall have an area of not less than 8 percent of the floor area of the interior adjoining space, but not less than 25 square feet

**403.8.6.2 Outside air intake locations.** All outside air intake opening types described in Section 403.8.6.1 shall be classified operable openings and shall not be classified as mechanical air intakes. The intake locations shall comply with Section 403.8.3.

**403.8.6.3 Whole house exhaust system.** Whole house exhaust system shall be designed and installed to meet all of the applicable criteria below:

1. Whole house ventilation exhaust shall be discharged outdoors.
2. Exhaust outlets shall comply with Section 501.2.
3. Exhaust ducts in systems which are designed to operate intermittently shall be equipped with back-draft dampers.
4. All exhaust ducts in unconditioned spaces shall be insulated to a minimum of R-4.5. Terminal outlet elements shall have at least the equivalent net free area of the ductwork.
5. Terminal outlet elements shall be screened or otherwise protected as required by Section 501.2.2.
6. One of the required local exhaust fans for the laundry room or bathroom may be designated as the whole house exhaust fan.
7. Exhaust fans in separate dwelling units or sleeping units shall not share common exhaust ducts unless the system is engineered for this operation.
8. Where permitted by Chapter 5 whole house exhaust ducts may be combined with other local exhaust ducts. If more than one of the exhaust fans in a dwelling unit or sleeping unit shares a common exhaust duct then each exhaust fan shall be equipped with a back-draft damper to prevent the recirculation of exhaust air from one room to another room via the exhaust ducting system.



**403.8.6.4 Whole house exhaust and transfer fans.**

Exhaust fan construction and sizing shall meet the following criteria.

1. Exhaust and transfer fans shall be tested and rated in accordance with the airflow and sound rating procedures of the Home Ventilating Institute (HVI 915, HVI Loudness Testing and Rating Procedure, HVI 916, HVI Airflow Test Procedure, and HVI 920, HVI Product Performance Certification Procedure).
2. Installation of system or equipment shall be carried out in accordance with manufacturers' design requirements and installation instructions.
3. Fan airflow rating and duct system shall be designed and installed to deliver at least the outdoor airflow required by Table 403.3.1.1 or Table 403.8.1. The airflows required refer to the delivered airflow of the system as installed and tested using a flow hood, flow grid, or other airflow measurement device.

**Exception:** An airflow rating at a pressure of 0.25 in. w.g. may be used, provided the duct sizing meets the prescriptive requirements of Table 403.8.5.2.

**403.8.6.5 Fan noise.** Whole house exhaust and transfer fans located 4 feet or less from the interior grille shall have a sone rating of 1.0 or less measured at 0.10 inches water gauge. Manufacturer's noise ratings shall be determined as per HVI 915. Remotely mounted fans shall be acoustically isolated from the structural elements of the building and from attached ductwork using insulated flexible duct or other approved material.

**403.8.7 Whole house ventilation integrated with forced-air systems.** This section establishes minimum requirements for mechanical whole house ventilation systems using forced-air system fans.

**403.8.7.1 Outdoor air.** Forced-air system fan ventilation systems shall provide outdoor air through one of the following methods:

1. A dedicated outdoor air louver and outdoor air duct for each dwelling unit or sleeping unit shall supply outdoor air to the return side of the forced-air system fan; or
2. A central outdoor air delivery system that supplies multiple dwelling units or sleeping units shall supply outdoor air to the return side of the forced air system fan.
3. For interior adjoining spaces without outdoor air openings, one of the following two options shall be used to ventilate the interior adjoining space:
  - 3.1. Provide a whole house transfer fan at the interior adjoining space sized to provide a minimum of the ventilation rate required per Section 403.8.5.1. The transfer fan shall circulate air between the interior room or space and the adjacent habitable space. The transfer fan may operate continuously or intermittently using controls per Section 403.8.2.

- 3.2. Provide a permanent opening to the interior adjoining space. Opening shall be unobstructed and shall have an area of not less than 8 percent of the floor area of the interior adjoining space, but not less than 25 square feet.

**403.8.7.2 Whole house forced-air system.** Where outdoor air is provided to each habitable dwelling unit or sleeping unit by a forced-air system, the outdoor air duct shall be connected to the return air stream at a point within 4 feet upstream of the forced-air unit. It shall not be connected directly to the forced-air unit cabinet in order to prevent thermal shock to the heat exchanger. At a minimum, filtration of the outdoor air shall be provided at the forced-air unit. The filter shall be accessible for regular maintenance and replacement. The filter shall have a Minimum Efficiency Rating Value (MERV) of at least 6.

Each habitable space in the dwelling or sleeping unit shall be served by a forced-air system with outdoor air connection.

**403.8.8 Whole house ventilation with supply fan systems.** This section establishes minimum requirements for mechanical whole house ventilation systems using supply fan systems.

**403.8.8.1 Outdoor air.** Supply fan ventilation systems shall provide outdoor air through one of the following methods:

1. A dedicated outdoor air louver and outdoor air duct for each dwelling unit or sleeping unit shall supply outdoor air to a supply fan; or
2. A central outdoor air supply fan system shall distribute unconditioned or conditioned air to multiple dwelling units or sleeping units.
3. For interior adjoining spaces without outdoor air openings, one of the following two options shall be used to ventilate the interior adjoining space:
  - 3.1. Provide a whole house transfer fan at the interior adjoining space sized to provide a minimum of the ventilation rate required per Section 403.8.5.1. The transfer fan shall circulate air between the interior room or space and the adjacent habitable space. The transfer fan may operate continuously or intermittently using controls per Section 403.8.2.
  - 3.2. Provide a permanent opening to the interior adjoining space. Opening shall be unobstructed and shall have an area of not less than 8 percent of the floor area of the interior adjoining space, but not less than 25 square feet.

**403.8.8.2 Whole house supply system.** Where outdoor air is provided to each habitable dwelling unit or sleeping unit by supply fan systems the outdoor air shall be filtered.

The system filter may be located at the intake device or inline with the fan. The filter shall be accessible for regular maintenance and replacement. The filter shall have a Minimum Efficiency Rating Value (MERV) of at least 6.

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**403.8.9 Whole house ventilation with heat recovery or energy recovery ventilation systems.**

This section establishes minimum requirements for mechanical whole house ventilation systems using heat recovery or energy recovery ventilation systems.

**403.8.9.1 Outdoor air.** Heat recovery or energy recovery ventilation systems shall provide outdoor air through one of the following methods:

1. A dedicated outdoor air louver and outdoor air duct for each dwelling unit or sleeping unit shall supply outdoor air to the heat recovery or energy recovery ventilator; or
2. A central outdoor air heat recovery or energy recovery unit shall distribute conditioned air to multiple dwelling units or sleeping units.
3. For interior adjoining spaces without outdoor air openings, one of the following two options shall be used to ventilate the interior adjoining space:
  - 3.1. Provide a whole house transfer fan at the interior adjoining space sized to provide a minimum of the ventilation rate required per Section 403.8.5.1. The transfer fan shall circulate air between the interior room or space and the adjacent habitable space. The transfer fan may operate continuously or intermittently using controls per Section 403.8.2.
  - 3.2. Provide a permanent opening to the interior adjoining space. Opening shall be unobstructed and shall have an area of not less than 8 percent of the floor area of the interior adjoining space, but not less than 25 square feet.

**403.8.9.2 Whole house heat recovery ventilator system.**

Where outdoor air is provided to each habitable dwelling unit or sleeping unit by heat recovery or energy recovery ventilator the outdoor air shall be filtered. The filter shall be located on the upstream side of the heat exchanger in both the intake and exhaust airstreams with a Minimum Efficiency Rating Value (MERV) of at least 6. The system filter may be located at the intake device or inline with the fan. The filter shall be accessible for regular maintenance and replacement.

Each habitable space in the dwelling or sleeping unit shall be served by a heat recovery ventilator system with outdoor air connection.

**403.8.10 Local exhaust ventilation and whole house ventilation alternate performance or design requirements.**

In lieu of complying with Sections 403.8.4 or 403.8.5 compliance with the section shall be demonstrated through engineering calculations by an engineer licensed to practice in the state of Washington or by performance testing. Documentation of calculations or performance test results shall be submitted to and approved by the building official. Performance testing shall be conducted in accordance with approved test methods.

**403.8.11 Alternate systems.** When approved by the code official, systems designed in accordance with ASHRAE Standard 62.2 shall be permitted.

(Insert as Page 40e)

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mm) from operable openings into the building for all occupancies other than Group U, and 10 feet (3048 mm) from a mechanical air intake.

**Exceptions:**

1. The separation between an air intake and exhaust outlet on a single listed package HVAC unit.
2. Exhaust from environmental air systems other than garages may be discharged into an open parking garage.
3. Except for Group I occupancies, where ventilation system design circumstances require building HVAC air to be relieved, such as during economizer operation, such air may be relieved into an open or enclosed parking garage within the same building.
4. Exhaust outlets serving structures in flood hazard areas shall be installed at or above the elevation required by Section 1613 of the *International Building Code* for utilities and attendant equipment.
5. **For enclosed parking garage exhaust system outlets and transformer vault exhaust system outlets:** 10 feet (3048 mm) from property lines which separate one lot from another; 10 feet (3048 mm) from operable openings into buildings; 10 feet (3048 mm) above adjoining finished sidewalk.
6. **For elevator machinery rooms in enclosed or open parking garages:** Exhaust outlets may discharge air directly into the parking garage.
7. For specific systems see the following sections:
  - 7.1 Clothes dryer exhaust, Section 504.4.
  - 7.2 Kitchen hoods and other kitchen exhaust equipment, Sections 506.3.13, 506.4 and 506.5.
  - 7.3 Dust stock and refuse conveying systems, Section 511.2.
  - 7.4 Subslab soil exhaust systems, Section 512.4.
  - 7.5 Smoke control systems, Section 513.10.3.
  - 7.6 Refrigerant discharge, Section 1105.7.
  - 7.7 Machinery room discharge, Section 1105.6.1.

**501.3.1 Location of Exhaust Outlet.** The termination point of exhaust outlets and ducts discharging to the outdoors shall be located with the following minimum distances:

1. **For ducts conveying explosive or flammable vapors, fumes or dusts:** 30 feet (9144 mm) from the property line; 10 feet (3048 mm) from operable openings into the building; 6 feet (1829 mm) from exterior walls and roofs; 30 feet (9144 mm) from combustible walls and operable openings into the building which are in the direction of the exhaust discharge; 10 feet (3048 mm) above adjoining grade.
2. **For other product-conveying outlets:** 10 feet (3048 mm) from property lines; 3 feet (914 mm) from exterior walls and roofs; 10 feet (3048 mm) from operable openings into the building; 10 feet (3048 mm) above adjoining grade.
3. **For environmental air duct exhaust other than enclosed parking garage and transformer vault exhaust:** 3 feet (914 mm) from property lines, 3 feet (914

**501.4 Pressure equalization.** Mechanical exhaust systems shall be sized to remove the quantity of air required by this chapter to be exhausted. The system shall operate when air is required to be exhausted. Where mechanical exhaust is required in a room or space, such space shall be maintained with a neutral or negative pressure. If a greater quantity of air is supplied by a mechanical ventilating supply system than is removed by a mechanical exhaust for a room, adequate means shall be provided for the natural or mechanical exhaust of the excess air supplied. If only a mechanical exhaust system is installed for a room or if a greater quantity of air is removed by a mechanical exhaust system than is supplied by a mechanical ventilating supply system for a room, adequate makeup air consisting of supply air, transfer air or outdoor air shall be provided to satisfy the deficiency. The calculated building infiltration rate shall not be used to satisfy the requirements of this section.

**Exception:** R-3 occupancies and dwelling units in R-2 occupancies are excluded from the pressure equalization requirement unless required by Section 504.5 or Section 505.2.

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**504.4 Exhaust installation.** Dryer exhaust ducts for clothes dryers shall terminate on the outside of the building and shall be equipped with a backdraft damper located where the duct terminates. Dryer exhaust ducts may terminate at exterior wall louvers with openings spaced not less than 1/2-inch in any direction.

Screens shall not be installed at the duct termination. Ducts shall not be connected or installed with sheet metal screws or other fasteners that will obstruct the exhaust flow. Clothes dryer exhaust ducts shall not be connected to a vent connector, vent or chimney. Clothes dryer exhaust ducts shall not extend into or through ducts or plenums.

Domestic dryer exhaust ducts may terminate at a common location where each duct has an independent back-draft damper.

**504.10 Common exhaust systems for clothes dryers located in multistory structures.** Where a common multistory duct system is designed and installed to convey exhaust from multiple clothes dryers, the construction of the system shall be in accordance with all of the following:

1. The shaft in which the duct is installed shall be constructed and fire-resistance rated as required by the *International Building Code*.
2. Dampers shall be prohibited in the exhaust duct. Penetrations of the shaft and ductwork shall be protected in accordance with Section 607.5.5, Exception 2.
3. Rigid metal ductwork shall be installed within the shaft to convey the exhaust. The ductwork shall be constructed of sheet steel having a minimum thickness of 0.0187 inch (0.4712 mm) (No. 26 gage) and in accordance with *SMACNA Duct Construction Standards*.
4. The ductwork within the shaft shall be designed and installed without offsets.
5. The exhaust fan motor design shall be in accordance with Section 503.2.
6. The exhaust fan motor shall be located outside of the airstream.
7. The exhaust fan shall run continuously, and shall be connected to a standby power source.
8. Exhaust fan operation shall be monitored in an *approved* location and shall initiate an audible or visual signal when the fan is not in operation.
9. Makeup air shall be provided for the exhaust system to maintain the minimum flow for the exhaust fan when the dryers are not operating. Additionally, makeup air shall be provided when required by Section 504.5.
10. A cleanout opening shall be located at the base of the shaft to provide *access* to the duct to allow for cleaning and inspection. The finished opening shall be not less than 12 inches by 12 inches (305 mm by 305 mm).
11. Screens shall not be installed at the termination.
12. The common multistory duct system shall serve only clothes dryers and shall be independent of other exhaust systems.

**505.1 Domestic systems.** Where domestic range hoods and domestic appliances equipped with downdraft exhaust are provided, such hoods and appliances shall discharge to the outdoors through sheet metal ducts constructed of galvanized steel, stainless steel, aluminum or copper. Such ducts shall have smooth inner walls, shall be air tight, shall be equipped with a backdraft damper and shall be independent of all other exhaust systems.

Domestic kitchen exhaust ducts may terminate with other domestic dryer exhaust and residential local exhaust ducts at a common location where each duct has an independent back-draft damper.

Listed and labeled exhaust booster fans shall be permitted when installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

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**Exceptions:**

1. In other than Group I-1 and I-2, where installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions and where mechanical ventilation is otherwise provided in accordance with Chapter 4, listed and labeled ductless range hoods shall not be required to discharge to the outdoors.
2. Ducts for domestic kitchen cooking appliances equipped with downdraft exhaust systems shall be permitted to be constructed of Schedule 40 PVC pipe and fittings provided that the installation complies with all of the following:
  - 2.1. The duct shall be installed under a concrete slab poured on grade.
  - 2.2. The underfloor trench in which the duct is installed shall be completely backfilled with sand or gravel.
  - 2.3. The PVC duct shall extend not more than 1 inch (25 mm) above the indoor concrete floor surface.
  - 2.4. The PVC duct shall extend not more than 1 inch (25 mm) above grade outside of the building.
  - 2.5. The PVC ducts shall be solvent cemented.



**506.3.9 Grease duct cleanout location, spacing and installation.**

**506.3.9.1 Grease duct horizontal cleanout.** Cleanouts located on horizontal sections of ducts shall:

1. Be spaced not more than 20 feet (6096 mm) apart.
2. Be located not more than 10 feet (3048 mm) from changes in direction that are greater than 45 degrees (0.79 rad).
3. Be located on the bottom only where other locations are not available and shall be provided with internal damming of the opening such that grease will flow past the opening without pooling. Bottom cleanouts and openings shall be approved for the application and installed liquid-tight.
4. Not be closer than 1 inch (25.4 mm) from the edges of the duct.
5. Have dimensions of not less than 12 inches by 12 inches (305 mm by 305 mm). Where such dimensions preclude installation, the openings shall be not less than 12 inches (305 mm) on one side and shall be large enough to provide access for cleaning and maintenance.
6. Be located at grease reservoirs.

**506.3.9.2 Grease duct vertical cleanouts.** Where ducts pass vertically through floors, cleanouts shall be provided. A minimum of one cleanout shall be provided on each floor. Cleanout openings shall be not less than 1 1/2 inches (38 mm) from all outside edges of the duct or welded seams.

locations where unprotected openings are permitted by the *International Building Code*. The duct enclosure shall serve a single grease duct and shall not contain other ducts, piping or wiring systems. Duct enclosures shall be a shaft enclosure in accordance with Section 506.3.11.1, a field-applied enclosure assembly in accordance with Section 506.3.11.2 or a factory-built enclosure assembly in accordance with Section 506.3.11.3. Duct enclosures shall have a fire-resistance rating of not less than that of the assembly penetrated. The duct enclosure need not exceed 2 hours but shall not be less than 1 hour. Fire dampers and smoke dampers shall not be installed in grease ducts.

**Exception:** A duct enclosure shall not be required for a grease duct that penetrates only a nonfire-resistance-rated roof/ceiling assembly.

**506.3.11 Grease duct enclosures.** A commercial kitchen grease duct serving a Type I hood that penetrates a ceiling, wall, floor or any concealed spaces shall be enclosed from the point of penetration to the outlet terminal. In-line exhaust fans not located outdoors shall be enclosed as required for grease ducts. A duct shall penetrate exterior walls only at

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**507.1.2 Domestic cooking appliance used for commercial purposes.** Domestic cooking appliances utilized for commercial purposes shall be provided with Type I, Type II or residential hoods as required for the type of appliances and processes in accordance with Table 507.1.2 and Sections 507.2 and 507.3. Domestic cooking appliances utilized for domestic purposes shall comply with Section 505.

**507.2 Type I hoods.** Type I hoods shall be installed where cooking appliances produce grease or smoke as a result of the cooking process. Type I hoods shall be installed over

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medium-duty, heavy-duty and extra-heavy-duty cooking appliances.

Exceptions:

1. A Type I hood shall not be required for an electric cooking appliance where an approved testing agency provides documentation that the appliance effluent contains 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> or less of grease when tested at an exhaust flow rate of 500 cfm in accordance with Section 17 of UL 710B.
2. A Type I hood shall not be required in an R-2 type occupancy with not more than 16 residents.

**TABLE 507.1.2  
TYPE OF HOOD REQUIRED FOR DOMESTIC COOKING APPLIANCES  
IN THE FOLLOWING SPACES<sup>a, b</sup>**

| Type of Space  | Type of Cooking                                 | Type of Hood   |
|--|---|--|
| Church   | 1. Boiling, steaming and warming precooked food | Type II hood   |
|  | 2. Roasting, pan frying and deep frying         | Type I hood  |
| Community or party room in apartment and condominium | 1. Boiling, steaming and warming precooked food | Residential hood <sup>c</sup> or Type II hood <sup>d</sup> |
|  | 2. Roasting, pan frying and deep frying         | Type I hood  |
| Day care   | 1. Boiling, steaming and warming precooked food | Residential hood <sup>c</sup> or Type II hood <sup>d</sup> |
|  | 2. Roasting, pan frying and deep frying         | Type I hood  |
| Dormitory, boarding home, nursing home               | 1. Boiling, steaming and warming precooked food | Type II hood   |
|  | 2. Roasting, pan frying and deep frying         | Type I hood  |
| Office lunch room                                    | 1. Boiling, steaming and warming precooked food | Residential hood <sup>c</sup> or Type II hood <sup>d</sup> |
|  | 2. Roasting, pan frying and deep frying         | Type I hood  |

- a. Commercial cooking appliances shall comply with Section 507.2.
- b. Requirements in this table apply to electric or gas fuel appliances only. Solid fuel appliances or charbroilers require Type I hoods.
- c. Residential hood shall ventilate to the outside.
- d. Type II hood required when more than one appliance is used.

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**SECTION 515  
WASTE OR LINEN CHUTE VENTING**

**515.1 General.** Waste or linen chutes shall be gravity vented per NFPA 82.

**Exception:** Waste or linen chutes may be mechanically ventilated by an exhaust fan. The exhaust fan shall be located outside the building at the top of the chute.

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**601.2 Air movement in egress elements.** Corridors shall not serve as supply, return, exhaust, relief or ventilation air ducts.

**Exceptions:**

1. Use of a corridor as a source of makeup air for exhaust systems in rooms that open directly onto such corridors, including toilet rooms, bathrooms, dressing rooms, smoking lounges and janitor closets, shall be permitted provided that each such corridor is directly supplied with *outdoor air* at a rate greater than the rate of makeup air taken from the corridor.
2. Where located within a dwelling unit, the use of corridors for conveying return air shall not be prohibited.
3. Where located within tenant spaces of 1,000 square feet (93 m<sup>2</sup>) or less in area, utilization of corridors for conveying return air is permitted.
4. Incidental air movement from pressurized rooms within health care facilities, provided that the corridor is not the primary source of supply or return to the room.
5. Where such air is part of an engineered smoke control system..
6. Air supplied to corridors serving residential occupancies shall not be considered as providing ventilation air to the dwelling units and sleeping units subject to the following:
  - 6.1 The air supplied to the corridor is 100% outside air, and
  - 6.2 The units served by the corridor have conforming ventilation air independent of the air supplied to the corridor, and
  - 6.3 For other than high-rise buildings, the supply fan will automatically shut off upon activation of corridor smoke detectors which shall be spaced at no more than 30 feet (9144 mm) on center along the corridor, or
  - 6.4 For high-rise buildings, corridor smoke detector activation will close required smoke/fire dampers at the supply inlet to the corridor at the floor receiving the alarm.



**602.1 General.** Supply, return, exhaust, relief and ventilation air plenums shall be limited to uninhabited crawl spaces, areas above a ceiling or below the floor, attic spaces and mechanical equipment rooms. Plenums shall be limited to one fire area. Air systems that serve multiple fire areas shall be ducted from the boundary of the fire area served directly to the air-handling equipment. Fuel-fired appliances shall not be installed within a plenum.

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**603.5.1 Gypsum ducts.** The use of gypsum boards to form air shafts (ducts) shall be limited to return air systems where the air temperatures do not exceed 125°F (52°C) and the gypsum board surface temperature is maintained above the airstream dew-point temperature. Air ducts formed by gypsum boards shall not be incorporated in air-handling systems utilizing evaporative coolers.

**Exception:** In other than Group I-2 occupancies, gypsum boards may be used for ducts that are only used for stairwell or elevator pressurization supply air. The gypsum duct shall not attach directly to the equipment.

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**605.1 General.** Heating and air-conditioning systems shall be provided with approved air filters. Filters shall be installed such that all return air, outdoor air and makeup air is filtered upstream from any heat exchanger or coil. Filters shall be installed in an approved convenient location. Liquid adhesive coatings used on filters shall have a flash point not lower than 325°F (163°C).

**Exception:** Chilled beams that are designed to operate above the space dew point temperature do not require filtration at the terminal device.

**605.4 Particulate matter removal.** Particulate matter filters or air cleaners having a minimum efficiency reporting value (MERV) of not less than 6 for ducted air handlers and not less than 4 for ductless mini-split systems shall be provided upstream of all cooling coils or other devices with wetted surfaces through which air is supplied to an occupiable space.

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**606.2.1 Return air systems.** Smoke detectors shall be installed in return air systems with a design capacity greater than 2,000 cfm (0.9 m<sup>3</sup>/s), in the return air duct or plenum upstream of any filters, exhaust air connections, outdoor air connections, or decontamination equipment and appliances.

**Exceptions:**

1. Smoke detectors are not required in the return air system where all portions of the building served by the air distribution system are protected by area smoke detectors connected to a fire alarm system in accordance with the International Fire Code. The area smoke detection system shall comply with Section 606.4.
2. Smoke detectors are not required in the air system where all of the air is exhausted and not recirculated back to any portion of the building. Additionally, smoke detectors are not required in the supply system that provides the makeup air for the exhaust system.

**606.2.2 Common supply and return air systems.** Where multiple air-handling systems share common supply or return air ducts or plenums with a combined design capacity greater than 2,000 cfm (0.9 m<sup>3</sup>/s), the return air system shall be provided with smoke detectors in accordance with Section 606.2.1.

**Exception:** Individual smoke detectors shall not be required for each fan-powered terminal unit, provided that such units do not have an individual design capacity greater than 2,000 cfm (0.9 m<sup>3</sup>/s) and will be shut down by activation of one of the following:

1. Smoke detectors required by Sections 606.2.1 and 606.2.3.
2. An approved area smoke detector system located in the return air plenum serving such units.
3. An area smoke detector system as prescribed in the exception to Section 606.2.1.

In all cases, the smoke detectors shall comply with Sections 606.4 and 606.4.1.

The shut down of fan-powered terminal units may be performed by a building automation system upon activation of smoke detection as described in Section 606.2.2, Exception Items 1, 2, or 3. The building automation system is not required to be listed as a smoke control system and is not required to comply with UL Standard 864: Standard for Control Units and Accessories for Fire Alarm Systems.

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**Informational Note:** Boilers and pressure vessels are regulated by Chapter 70.79 RCW and Chapter 296.104 WAC in addition to the requirements of this code.

**1001.1 Scope.** This chapter shall govern the installation, alteration and repair of boilers, water heaters and pressure vessels.

**Exceptions:**

1. Pressure vessels used for unheated water supply.
2. Portable unfired pressure vessels and Interstate Commerce Commission containers.
3. Containers for bulk oxygen and medical gas.
4. Unfired pressure vessels having a volume of 5 cubic feet (0.14 m<sup>3</sup>) or less operating at pressures not exceeding 250 pounds per square inch (psi) (1724 kPa) and located within occupancies of Groups B, F, H, M, R, S and U.
5. Pressure vessels used in refrigeration systems that are regulated by Chapter 11 of this code.
6. Pressure tanks used in conjunction with coaxial cables, telephone cables, power cables and other similar humidity control systems.
7. Any boiler or pressure vessel subject to inspection by federal or state inspection programs.



**1107.2 Piping location.** Refrigerant piping that crosses an open space that affords passageway in any building shall be not less than 7 feet 3 inches (2210 mm) above the floor unless the piping is located against the ceiling of such space. Refrigerant piping shall not be placed in any of the following:

1. A fire-resistance-rated exit access corridor.
2. An interior exit stairway.
3. An interior exit ramp.
4. An exit passageway.
5. An elevator, dumbwaiter, or other shaft containing a moving object.
6. A shaft that has one or more openings into a fire-resistance-rated exit access corridor, interior exit stairway or ramp, or exit passageway.

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**1209.5.1 Slab-on-grade installation.** Radiant piping utilized in slab-on-grade applications shall be provided with insulating materials installed beneath the piping as required by the Washington State Energy Code.

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**1210.7.6 Expansion tanks.** Shutoff valves shall be installed at connections to expansion tanks. A method of draining the expansion tank downstream of the shutoff valve shall be provided.

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# ASHRAE

ASHRAE  
1791 Tulie Circle NE  
Atlanta GA 30329

| Standard reference number | Title  | Referenced in code section number |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| ASHRAE-2013               | ASHRAE Fundamentals Handbook.....  | 603.2                             |
| 15-2013                   | Safety Standard for Refrigeration Systems .....  | 1101.6, 1105.8, 1108.1            |
| 34-2013                   | Designation and Safety Classification of Refrigerants .....                                | 202, 1102.2.1, 1103.1             |
| 62.1-2013                 | Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality .....  | 403.3.1.1.2.3.2                   |
| 62.2-2013                 | Ventilation and Acceptable Indoor Air Quality in Low-Rise Residential Buildings.....       | 403.8.11                          |
| 170-2008                  | Ventilation for Health Care Facilities .....   | 407                               |
| 180-2012                  | Standard Practice for Inspection and Maintenance of Commercial Building HVAC Systems ..... | 102.3                             |

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**WAC 51-52-21000 – International Fuel Gas Code**

**101.2 Scope.** This code shall apply to the installation of fuel gas piping systems, fuel gas utilization equipment, gaseous hydrogen systems and regulated accessories in accordance with Section 101.2.1 through 101.2.5.

**Exceptions:** 1. Detached one- and two-family dwellings and multiple single-family dwellings (townhouses) not more than three stories high with separate means of egress and their accessory structures shall comply with the International Residential Code.

2. The standards for liquefied petroleum gas installations shall be the 2014 Edition of NFPA 58 (Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code) and the 2015 Edition of ANSI Z223.1/NFPA 54 (National Fuel Gas Code).