

MECHANICAL CODE DISCUSSION

Just Adopted: The 2012 IMC, IFGC, IRC & State Amendments



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As of the July 1, 2013 adoption date for the 2012 International Code Council (ICC) set of codes for the state. The focus was on the mechanical requirements found in the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). Due to a challenge in



modifying REScheck, the DoE compliance software for residential building envelopes, and the adoption of the IECC has been placed on hold, pending resolution of this issue. until further notice, the adopted IECC for Utah remains the 2006 IECC for one and two family dwellings, and the 2009 IECC for all other buildings. All of the other I Codes; the 2012 IBC, IMC, IRC, IFGC and for our plumber members, the IPC, are now in effect for permits issued July 1 or later. In addition to these new codes, a number of state Amendments, some new, also have gone into effect.

As a member of the state Mechanical Advisory Committee, I've enjoyed the opportunity to propose and discuss several new amendments to the IRC,

IMC and IFGC, now included in the state Construction and fire Codes Act. This issue, let's focus on the new state

Amendments, directly impacting our industry. The section number in the Act follows each amendment.

Possibly most important to many RMGA members is a new amendment to Table M1601.1.1(2), the duct gage table in the International Residential Code (IRC). In 2009, a change was made in the IRC requiring 28 gage galvanized steel for duct 14" or less in diameter.

This was recognized by many code officials to be burdensome and of little value. I've regularly encouraged code officials to be reasonable, not enforcing this as we work to rollback this requirement. unfortunately, several

code officials have chosen to enforce, requiring contractors to change all 6" pipe to 28 gage steel, in new

construction homes. It appears that the 2015 IRC now in development will correct this problem; however I felt we needed to do something now. My proposal, accepted by the uniform Buildings Codes Commission and approved by legislation, allows 30 gage steel for ducts 8" or less.

Please keep in mind; this applies to IRC buildings only; that is one and two family dwellings. Multi-family (apartments) must follow the sMANCA Handbook. (15A-3-401(3))

Another amendment, submitted by Questar, adds a new IRC subsection as follows:

"G2401.2 Meter Protection. fuel gas services shall be in an approved location and/or provided with structures designed to protect the fuel gas meter and surrounding

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room, or space enclosed within the building thermal envelope that is directly heated or cooled, or indirectly heated or cooled by any of the following means:

1. openings directly into an adjacent conditioned space.
2. An uninsulated floor, ceiling or wall adjacent to a conditioned space.
3. uninsulated duct, piping or other heat or cooling source within the space.” (15A-3-401-1))

for a complete PDF copy of Title 15A — state Construction and fire Codes Act, see:
<http://le.utah.gov/code/TITLE15A/15A.pdf>

Remember, your comments and suggestions are always appreciated. My contact information includes a change in my phone number.

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—Thanks, Brent

piping from physical damage, including falling, moving, or migrating ice and snow. If an added structure is used, it must provide access for service and comply with the IBC or the IRC.”

The identical requirement is added to the IfGC, section 404.9.1. While this requirement typically will be the responsibility of the general contractor, those installing gas lines should be aware of conditions that may require meter protection. (15A-3-501-1))

section 409.5.3 of the 2009 and 2012 IfGC allows the appliance shutoff valve to be located at a manifold, as long as it is within 50’ of the appliance. This is a dangerous, ridiculous allowance, which I unsuccessfully fought at the ICC Code Development Hearing. simply stated, if a Cst manifold is installed in a basement, the shut off for an attic furnace could be installed at the manifold, in the basement. I submitted an amendment deleting this section, which was also approved by the legislature. The appliance shut-off must be located per other requirements in the

IfGC, typically within 6’ of the appliance. (15A-3-501-2))

A common home construction practice today is insulating the basement walls of a new single family dwelling with an insulation blanket. This practice places the entire unfinished basement inside the thermal envelope, making compliance with the energy code a little simpler. With the duct work inside the thermal envelope, the need to for duct insulation is eliminated. A problem arose with some code officials requiring adding supply air outlets and return air inlets, for the space to be considered conditioned. Drawing on the definition of indirectly conditioned space from ASHRAE, I rewrote the definition for conditioned space, submitting as a state amendment, as well as a change to the 2015 codes. The new definition is now found in the state amendments and will likewise be included in the 2015 codes. This amendment reads:

In IMC, section 202, the definition for “CoNDITIoNED sPACE” is deleted and replaced with the following: “CoNDITIoNED sPACE. An area,

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