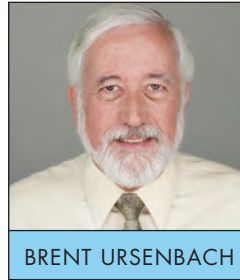


MECHANICAL CODE DISCUSSION

2021 I-Code Adoption



BRENT URSEBACH

BRENT URSEBACH

HVAC EDUCATOR/
EXPERT WITNESS

bursenbach@gmail.com
801-381-1449

EARLY THIS YEAR, the Utah Legislature passed House Bill 532, amending the Construction Codes Act. With the passage of this Bill, effective July 1, 2023, the following Codes apply for all permits applied for on or after that date.

Adopted 2021 I-Codes:

International Building Code (IBC)

International Residential Code (IRC) –
except for Chapter 11 - Energy

International Plumbing Code (IPC)

International Mechanical Code (IMC)

International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC)

International Energy Conservation Code
(IECC) – Commercial ONLY

International Existing Building Code (IEBC)
Numerous Amendments, Including
Mechanical and Fuel Gas

No Action, the following 2015 Codes will remain in place:

2015 International Residential Code –
Chapter 11 - Energy

2015 International Energy Conservation
Code IECC – Residential Provisions

As we move to the 2021 Residential (IRC) Mechanical and Fuel Gas provisions, applicable to single family homes, two-family homes and townhouses, we must remember Utah did not adopt any portions of the 2018 IRC. With this new

adoption, we need to consider both the 2018 and 2021 changes. In this discussion I will touch on selected changes in the 2018 IRC, following in future discussions with other changes in both the 2018 and 2021 IRC mechanical and fuel gas sections.

2018 IRC. M1502.4.2 – Dryer Ducts

“Where dryer exhaust ducts are enclosed in wall or ceiling cavities, such cavities shall allow the installation of the duct without deformation.”

No longer allowed is squashing/deforming a standard 4" round pipe to fit in a 3-1/2" wall. A dryer box manufactured to fit in 2X4 wall is no longer code compliant in any residential or commercial building, as the hole in the top of the box deforms the pipe. This same change was in the 2018 IMC,



must either provide a 2X6 wall or fur out the wall to 4"+ depth.

adopted in 2019, but often missed during apartment project plan review and inspections. The builder

M1503.6 –Makeup Air Required for Kitchen Exhaust Systems

“Where one or more gas, liquid or solid fuel-burning appliance that is neither direct-vent nor uses a mechanical draft venting system is located within a dwelling unit’s air barrier, each exhaust system capable of exhausting in excess of 400 cubic feet per minute (0.19 m3/s) shall be mechanically or passively provided with makeup air at a rate approximately equal to the exhaust air rate. Such makeup air systems shall be equipped with not fewer than one damper complying with Section M1503.6.2.”



Make-up air for domestic cooking exhaust systems is no longer required if all Fuel Burning appliances in the dwelling have direct or mechanical draft system.

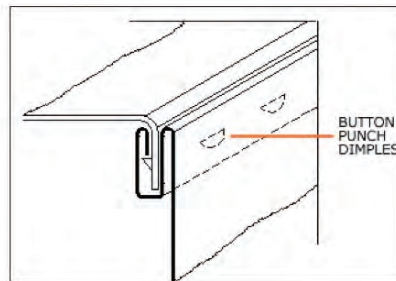
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Basically, if the home does not use a B-vent for any gas appliances, B-vent reversal hazards are eliminated. Please note, this exception will not apply in those cases where appliances are not installed direct vent, where the combustion air pipe is not installed, or the burner compartment not sealed as required by the manufacturer.

2018 IRC. M1601.4.1 Snap-lock & Button-lock Duct Joints

Snap and button lock duct within the thermal envelope no longer require

sealing of the longitudinal joints, if located inside the thermal envelope. Sealing of all seams is required for ducts in crawlspaces and attics.



Please let me know if you have further questions on these or other code requirements. Thanks—Brent

Don't be a Distracted Driver

Consider these sobering statistics:

- 47 percent of Americans consider themselves addicted to their cell phone.
- The average person touches their phone 344 times each day*.
- You are 23 times more likely to crash a vehicle while using a phone**.



When you combine cell phone addiction with driving, the results are devastating and deadly. Share these statistics with your employees.

*Wheelright, Trevor. "2022 Cell Phone Usage Statistics: How Obsessed Are We? Reviews.org." <https://www.reviews.org/mobile/cell-phone-addiction/>, Accessed 02.17.2023.

**US Department of Transportation. "Driver Distraction in Commercial Vehicle Operations". <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sites/fmcsa.doc.gov/files/docs/FMCSA-RRR-09-042.pdf>, Accessed 2.20.2023