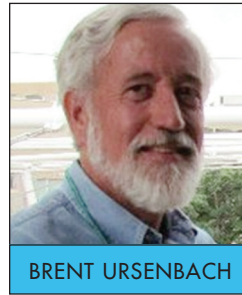


# MECHANICAL CODE DISCUSSION

## International Codes for the HVAC Industry



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THROUGHOUT THE PAST FORTY Mechanical Code Discussions written for the *Pipeline* Newsletter, numerous references have been made to the International Mechanical Code (IMC), International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC) and the International Residential Code (IRC). Each Code contains requirements for the installation of “mechanical” systems we deal with each day. Why three different codes? The second sub-section in the IMC provides needed clarity:

#### 2012 IMC - 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 (IMC) 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 (IFGC).*

**Exception:** *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 (IRC).*

#### International Mechanical Code

Use this code for commercial buildings including residential triplex or larger units.

Provides requirements for ventilation, exhaust systems, ducts, combustion air, chimneys and vents (for solid and oil fuels), specific solid fuel appliance requirements, refrigeration, hydronic piping, fuel oil piping & storage and solar systems.

#### International Fuel Gas Code

Use this code also for commercial buildings including residential triplex

or larger units. Provides requirements the installation of fuel-gas *piping* systems, fuel gas appliances, gaseous hydrogen systems and related accessories. Fuel gases most commonly used include natural gas and LP gas.

#### International Residential Code

The IRC is a single code book for building one and two family homes. Includes building, energy, *mechanical*, *fuel gas*, plumbing and electrical requirements for residential homes, duplexes and accessory buildings. The

requirements found in

the IRC are generally less restrictive than those found in the commercial codes. ■

*Don't own a current copy of the above codes? Contact the RMGA to purchase a set for your office or truck!*

*Code questions? Feel free to contact me at [bursenbach@slco.org](mailto:bursenbach@slco.org) or [bursenbach@yahoo.com](mailto:bursenbach@yahoo.com). —Brent*

