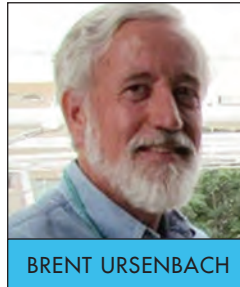


MECHANICAL CODE DISCUSSION

Dryer Venting Updates



BRENT URSEBACH

SALT LAKE COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

bursenbach@slco.org
385-468-6694

With the ADOPTION OF the 2015 international Code Council Codes this past July, a discussion on the new requirements for dryer vents is appropriate. One of the significant changes is the allowance to use a booster fan, for vents longer than the 35' maximum equivalent length limit defined in the code. I realize many of us have used booster fans in the past; however the listing and labeling Standard, UL 705 for use in dryer exhaust systems is a new standard for these fans. Please insure any fans you install in a dryer exhaust system are listed to this standard. Here's the code text:

504.5 Dryer Exhaust Duct Power Ventilators. Domestic dryer exhaust duct power ventilators shall be listed and labeled to UL 705 for use in dryer exhaust duct systems. The dryer exhaust duct power ventilator shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

504.8.4.3 Dryer Exhaust Duct Power Ventilator Length. The maximum length of the exhaust duct shall be determined by the dryer exhaust duct power ventilator manufacturer's installation instructions.

the mechanical code for many years has required all ducts to be mechanical fastened, and for round metallic ducts,

3 screws, equally spaced around the pipe. Possibly conflicting with is the section on dryer vents, which has



always stated screws or other fasteners shall not be used that will obstruct air flow. A change in the 2012 iRC and now in the 2015 iMC allows screws as long as they do not penetrate the interior of the duct by more than 1/8". This change occurred due to the large number of dryer vents that come apart in concealed spaces, often while cleaning the vent. Stubby 1/4" b-vent screws, after passing through 2 layers of pipe with the inner layer crimped, actual extend into the duct less the rolled end of a factory crimped pipe. the code text for this change:

2015 Code: 504.6.2 504.8.2 Duct Installation. Exhaust ducts shall be supported at 4-foot (1219 mm) intervals and secured in place. The insert end of

the duct shall extend into the adjoining duct or fitting in the direction of airflow. Ducts shall not be joined with screws or similar fasteners that protrude more than 1/8 inch (3.2 mm) into the inside of the duct.

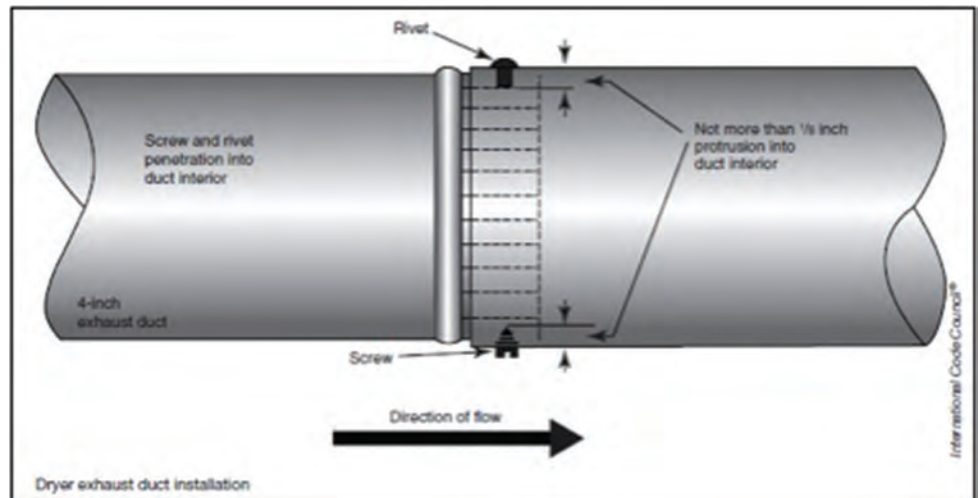
Summarizing key requirements for domestic dryer venting:

- Use 4" round smooth wall metallic pipe—do not oversize the pipe for long lengths. Flex is limited to use as a connector.
- Use tables 504.8.4.1 (iMC) and M1502.4.5.1 (iRC) for equivalent lengths on elbows, typically 5' for a standard 90° elbow; longer for smooth long radius elbows.
- Maximum equivalent length is 35', unless the dryer manufacturer allows longer lengths. If this exception is used and the duct is concealed, a permanent length label must be posted at the interior connection.
- A backdraft damper must be used at the termination; however no screens are allowed.
- Nail plate protection is required if closer than 1-1/4" to the face of top or bottom wall plates, and must extend 2" below or above the edge of the plate.

- All joints must be mechanical fastened with short screws, rivets or a cinch band/clamp. the joints must also be sealed.
- Support must be provided every 4'.

For additional information on other code updates, sign-up for the RMGA Fall technical training and receive a copy of the new 2015 Codes!

—See you there, Brent ■



Ask the Expert?

MIKE RUSSELL
FEDERATED INSURANCE

Question:

What is the Federated Shield Network?

Answer:

The Shield Network is an online resource for Cyber Security and Risk Assessment, Disaster Planning, Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace training, employment Screening tools, and training Resources, providing 24/7 access to a wealth of risk management material that helps ensure you are getting the most value out of your premium dollar.

The training Resources are web-based with mobile capability for easy access from PC, Laptop or Mobile Device. **The Seven Minute Safety Trainer App** is easy to set-up, and provides mobile flexibility for on- or off-site meetings, with meeting

notifications for trainers and attendees, and real-time management of employee attendance.

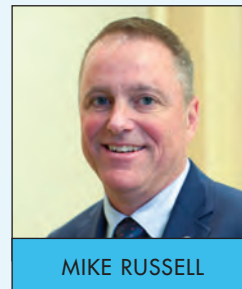
The app also includes 350+ safety topics that are industry specific, with links to regulatory websites such as OSHA, DOT and ePA.

Question:

Does the Shield Network provide Employment resources as well?

Answer:

Yes, Federated has developed an Online resource, including employee Handbook tools, HR Forms and Checklists, employment Law Posters, and Web-based training in employment law issues. The



Network also provides Live Support, with access to independent employment law attorneys for specific questions.

Question:

How do I learn more about Federated's Shield Network?

Answer:

Visit www.federatedinsurance.com, or call 1-800-533-0472 for more information. We also have five local Federated Representatives covering the State of Utah for RMGA members. ■

Mike Russell can be contacted at:

480-216-5445 or
mdrussell@fedins.com