

SUMMARY OF MECHANICAL CODE CHANGES

2004

The base document for the *Florida Building Code, Mechanical* has been updated to the 2003 *International Mechanical Code*.

302.3 Cutting, notching, and boring in wood framing.

- ✓ **302.3.4** Prohibited in Engineered wood products.
- ✓ **302.4** Adding loads to trusses not permitted without verifying truss can support such load.
- ✓ **302.5** New criteria for steel framing.

306.5 Equipment and appliances on roofs or elevated structures.

- ✓ Permanent ladders providing required access shall have: side rail $\geq 30''$; rung spacing $\leq 14''$ on center; toe spacing $\geq 6''$ deep; min. 18'' between rails; rungs $\geq .75''$ & support 300 lb. Load; if $> 30'$ high, have landings; be protected against corrosion

307.2.2 Drainpipe materials and sizes

- ✓ Added exception: On wall mounted ductless split units less than 36,001 Btu/h where the drain line is less than 10 feet in length the factory drain outlet size shall be acceptable from the equipment to the place of disposal

502.5 Valve-regulated lead-acid batteries.

- ✓ Added requirements/limits per room/cabinet for hydrogen & ventilation rate (from the fire code)

504.6 Domestic clothes dryer ducts.

- ✓ Added Exception – booster fan in accordance with manufacturer's installation instructions allowed, must have label stating booster fan in remote location.

507.13 Capacity of hoods

- ✓ Formulas deleted and replaced with CFM/ linear foot of hood.

513 Smoke Control Systems (Completely revised)

- ✓ **513.2** Design in accordance w/S.909 FBC-B and generally accepted & well-established principles of engineering

602.2.1 Materials exposed within plenums.

- ✓ Added exception #5: Combustible materials enclosed in approved gypsum board assemblies or enclosed in materials listed and labeled for such application.

603.1.3 Space provided. [around components forming part of air distribution system]

- ✓ Adds exception: Retrofit or replacement units not part of a renovation are exempt from the minimum clearance requirement.

603.4.2 Fibrous Glass Duct, Rigid

- ✓ **Mechanical fastening.** Attachments of ductwork to air-handling equipment shall be by mechanical fasteners. Where access is limited, two fasteners on one side shall be acceptable when installed in accordance with Section M603.1.6.

Sections 701 thru 708

- ✓ Replaced with Sections 304.1 – 304.12 of 2003 International Fuel Gas Code for consistency

707.1 Louvers and Grilles

- ✓ Where the design & free area of louvers and grilles are not known, assume wood louvers will have 25% free area and metal louvers and grilles will have 75% free area;
- ✓ Screens shall have a mesh size no smaller than ¼”
- ✓ Nonmotorized louvers/grilles to be fixed in the open position.

709.1 Protection from fumes and gases.

- ✓ Where corrosive or flammable process fumes or gases present (carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, chlorine and halogenated hydrocarbons) provide means for disposal.
- ✓ Barbershops, beauty shops, and similar facilities: nondirect-vent-type appliances to be located in equipment room separated or partitioned off from other areas w/provision for combustion & dilution air from outdoors.

1101.8 Change in refrigerant type.

- ✓ Refrigerant circuit containing more than 220 pounds of Group A1 or 30 pounds of any other group refrigerant shall not be changed without prior notification to the code official
- ✓ Table 1103.1 Refrigerant Classification, Amount and TLV-YWA – completely redone

MECHANICAL PROVISIONS OF THE NEW FLORIDA BUILDING CODE, RESIDENTIAL **Most provisions correlate to the *Florida Building Code, Mechanical***

- ✓ Air handler provisions added from 2001 FBC
- ✓ Wind resistance criteria for equipment added from 2001 FBC-M
- ✓ Floodplain management deferred to local government by Title 44CFR, Sec. 59,60
- ✓ Duct system criteria added from 2001 FBC-M (and the energy code)
- ✓ Return air provisions added from 604.1 of the 2001 FBC-M
- ✓ Combustion air requirements (for fuel oil systems) same as the *International Mechanical Code*
- ✓ Clothes dryer provisions have exception for booster fan in accordance with manufacturer's installation instructions allowed, must have label stating booster fan in remote location.