

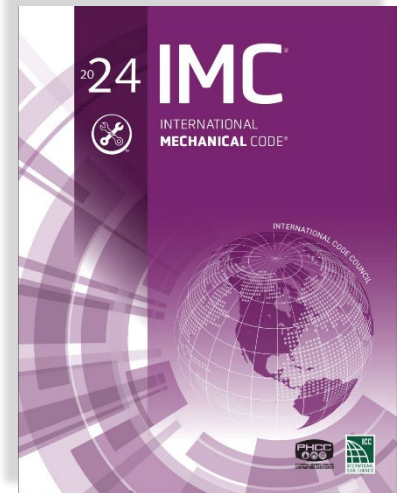


# The 2024 International Mechanical Code®

## *Why It Should Be In Your Future*

### FACTS

- The International Code Council (ICC) updates its construction and public safety codes every three years through a governmental consensus process.
- The International Mechanical Code® (IMC®) is in use or adopted in 47 states, the District of Columbia, NYC, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Approximately 299 million people, or 88% of the U.S. population, live in areas that have adopted the IMC.
- The IMC is fully correlated with the other 14 International Codes® (I-Codes®). The IMC has over 178 code sections that reference sections of code in other members of the International Code Family and in total there are over 397 IMC cross-references among the suite of 15 I-Codes.



### BENEFITS

- The IMC has 153 correlated sections with the International Building code® (IBC®); 26 in the International Plumbing Code® (IPC®); 24 in the International Fuel Gas Code® (IFGC®); 34 in the International Energy Conservation Code® (IECC®) and 141 in the International Fire Code® (IFC®); all of which avoids conflict and over lapping requirements. Correlated cross-references impact life safety issues related to:
  - fire protection and life safety systems
  - detailed ventilation and exhaust requirements based on occupancy and use
  - fire and smoke protection features
  - allowable quantities of hazardous materials
  - means of egress
- The I-Codes, when adopted as a family of codes, correlating as they do, provide a consistent system of regulations that designers, builders, and regulators can rely on, across city, county or state lines. Codes that correlate provide better public safety, improving fire prevention, reducing design problems and reducing construction costs.
- The code provisions found in the IMC are in line with all IECC requirements; correlation between adopted codes simplifies enforcement and eliminates direct conflicts with the IECC. The IMC includes several correlated subsections which go into detail regarding insulation requirements.
- There are many code sections that have been incorporated from the IFC and the IBC into the IMC providing additional assurances that these important provisions will be complied with across the trades. Other model codes do not incorporate these provisions and can only make a reference to a generic fire or building code term.

## MECHANICAL

- The IMC includes provisions for the use of domestic range hoods serving domestic appliances in Group I-1 and Group I-2 occupancies. This results in significant installation cost savings versus the cost of installing commercial range hoods in these applications.
- A new water spray test method for leakage testing of grease ducts is now included in the IMC. This test is an alternative to the traditional 100-watt light test, which has proven to be time consuming and difficult.
- The IMC now includes provisions for the use of A2L refrigerants in high-probability systems for human comfort. A2L refrigerants are the primary substitute for hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerants, which are greenhouse gases that are being phased down by the EPA.
- The IMC allows longer dryer duct lengths (35 feet max.) than other model codes with even longer lengths allowed when using a dryer exhaust duct power ventilator resulting in lower construction costs.
- The IMC does not limit the length of flexible air ducts and allows flexible air connectors up to a maximum length of 14 feet. The IMC usage allowances reduce construction costs and provide greater design flexibility.
- Requirements for the installation of radiant tubing and snow- and ice-melt tubing are included in the IMC. The new provisions allow for proper assessment of these systems for future repairs or system upgrades.
- Intake/exhaust combination terminations, which are regularly installed with heating and energy recovery ventilators, are approved for use by the IMC. Their use reduces building penetrations, labor, and associated system costs. By reducing the number of penetrations, air leakage can also be reduced, resulting in space conditioning energy savings. Further, the durability of the structure can be improved through reducing entry pathways for bulk water.
- The IMC provides mechanical ventilation credit for the better performance of whole-building dilution ventilation systems that are distributed, mixed and balanced. The minimum mechanical ventilation rate can be reduced by 30%, when a whole house balanced ventilation system is installed. This mechanical ventilation credit results in space conditioning energy savings.
- Complete sections on common exhaust systems for domestic kitchens and dryers are included in the IMC. These systems result in significant installation cost savings by reducing the number of wall penetrations and required materials. Air leakage can also be reduced, resulting in space conditioning energy savings.
- The IMC authorizes code officials to issue annual permits. In cases where a series of alterations will be made to an already approved system, equipment or application, an annual permit can be issued instead of requiring an individual construction permit for each alteration. These code provisions allow industrial facilities to make routine equipment changes in a timely manner, saving both time and money.

### For more information, contact:

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