

2015 IRC

Identification and Certification of Pipe, Tubing, and Fittings

M1301 All pipe, tubing, and fittings used in mechanical systems now require a manufacturer's mark and third-party testing or certification. New definitions supplement the provisions.

Locking Access Port Caps M1411.8 The code now recognizes any approved means to prevent unauthorized access to outdoor refrigerant ports.

M1502.4.2 The maximum support spacing for dryer exhaust ducts has increased from 4 feet to 12 feet. Dryer exhaust ducts now specifically require mechanical fastening. Screw fasteners are permitted to penetrate the exhaust duct no more than 1/8 inch. The maximum specified length of dryer exhaust duct has been increased from 25 to 35 feet and now matches the corresponding dryer exhaust provisions of the IMC, IFGC, and the IRC fuel-gas provisions.

M1502.4.4, M1502.4.5 The code now recognizes the use of dryer exhaust duct power ventilators (DEDPVs) to increase the allowable exhaust duct length for clothes dryers.

M1502.4.6 A permanent label identifying the concealed length of the dryer exhaust duct is no longer required where the equivalent duct length does not exceed 35ft. For the dryer exhaust duct exceeding 35ft, a label or tag is required whether the duct is concealed or not.

M1503.4 HOODS

Automatic operation of a mechanical damper is no longer required for supplying makeup air for kitchen exhaust systems exceeding a rating of 400 cubic feet per minute (cfm). Transfer openings are permitted to obtain makeup air from rooms other than the kitchen.

M1506.3 EXHAUST OPENINGS

Air exhaust openings shall terminate not less than 3 feet from property: 3 ft

From operable and nonoperable openings into the building and 10 feet from mechanical air intakes except where the opening is located 3 feet above the air intake.

M1506.2 Duct length

The code establishes maximum exhaust duct lengths based on duct diameter, type of duct and the exhaust fan airflow rating.

M1601.1 Stud cavities of exterior walls are no longer permitted to be used for return air plenums.

M1601.1.1, Table M1601.1.1, M1601.2 The list of duct system requirements has been revised to reference the applicable standards and delete redundant language. The table for material thickness of metal ducts was replaced with what is currently consistent with the SMACNA sheet metal construction standard.

M1601.4 Tapes and mastics used to seal sheet metal ducts must be listed to UL 181 B as has been required for sealing flexible ducts. Snap-lock and button-lock seams are no longer exempt from the sealing requirements.

M1601.4.1 The IRC provisions for duct connections have been replaced with language from the IMC and now reference the SMACNA HVAC Duct Construction Standards. Unlisted duct tape is not permitted for sealing joints or seams of ductwork.

M1602 The provisions for return air have been simplified and clarified to improve understanding while preserving the intent of keeping contaminants out of the airstream of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system. The provisions for outdoor air openings have been removed and the code now references the applicable provisions for outdoor air in Chapter 3.

M1602.2 The prohibition on taking return air from a garage does not apply to an HVAC system that serves the garage only. Mechanical rooms are no longer listed as prohibited sources of return air. Modifications of the 10-foot rule for separation of return air inlets and fuel-burning appliances clarifies that the requirement applies to the draft hood and open combustion chamber of atmospheric burner appliances, not direct vent

M1901 The provisions for kitchen ranges have been updated to match those for gas-fired ranges in Section G2447. References in Sections M1504.1 and M1505.1 alert the code user to specific provisions related to installation of cooking appliances above ranges and clearances for open-top broiler units. Mandatory code language now clarifies that cooking appliances used in dwellings must be listed and labeled for household use. Commercial cooking appliances are not permitted in dwelling units.