



News from the **Mechanical Inspectors**

05-01-09

The following information is provided from the Mechanical Inspections Department of the City of Winston-Salem.

Code Questions from Contractors:

1. The question has come up about the requirements for installation and permitting of residential oil tanks.

See section 1309 of the NC Mechanical Code, a permit and inspection is required for the installation of an oil tank. Notice the UL numbers for tanks, inside tank listing is UL 80 and outside tank listing is UL 142. Please take note of these requirements and review the code for compliance of your installation.

2. When do I have to start using proper duct wrap on boots installed on jobs?

We will start checking boot insulation as per the code for insulating metal duct after July 1, 09. Any permit purchased for an installation after that date will need to have the proper duct insulation on your boots to get the R factor required. Remember flex duct insulation is only allowed to insulate the flex not the metal duct system. Most contractors are already using the proper material and we thank you for your willingness to comply.

3. Can I now with 2009 codes delete smoke dampers on sub ducts for bathroom exhaust in apartments?

Yes, see section 607.5.5 Shaft Enclosures. Exception #1 for deletion of fire dampers and see section #2 for the deletion of smoke dampers in business and residential occupancies in kitchen, cloths dryer, bathroom an toilet room exhaust. This is also the same in the building code.

4. What is the clearance from bathroom exhaust to windows and doors into buildings?

See section 501.2.1. Location of exhaust outlets in the 2009 NC Mechanical Code. You will need 3 foot clearance from operable openings into buildings.

5. When installing fire dampers or smoke dampers in walls or floors does the inspector need to see the framing around the dampers?

Yes, we have to check the framing around the dampers as per the manufacturer's instructions.

6. Does the energy code still allow us to design by Ashrae 90.1?

Yes, see 501.1 of the 2009 Energy Code. In the scope it references 90.1

Please send any comments to miken@cityofws.org we would like to hear from you.

Thanks,
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