



10-01-08

NEWS FROM THE MECHANICAL INSPECTORS

City of Winston-Salem

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

The question below came from numerous contractors and designers about how to identify a fire barrier and a fire partition.

In reference to sections 607.5.2 Fire barriers and 607.5.2 Fire partitions: How do we know which rated wall is a fire partition or a fire barrier for mechanical systems?

Answer: The building code defines these walls as follows.

Fire barriers are used for separation of shafts, different occupancies and fire areas in buildings. See section 705 of the NC Building Code. We normally see penetrations with the mechanical duct system in shaft walls or fire walls that separate tenants that are required to be rated by the building code.

Fire partitions are normally used to separate dwelling units in the same building and separate sleeping units within group R-1, hotel occupancies, R-2 and I-1 occupancies. Walls separating tenant spaces in covered malls, corridor walls and elevator lobbies. See section 708 of the NC Building Code.

In buildings that are sprinkled these walls are sometimes not required to be protected. Review sections 607.5.2 and sections 607.5.3 of the NC Mechanical Code for requirements for protection of ducts penetrating these walls. See exceptions for sprinkled buildings.

2009 Energy Code

Will the duct insulation for residential be the same?

The 2006 International Energy Code has had some major revisions and has also changed some chapters around. The residential section is in chapter 4 now. As per Billy Hinton the supply and return will be R-8 now. I hope to have enough information by November to start listing some of these changes that will be effective in the 2009 Code.

I would like to hear from you on any comments you have or concerns. Items you wished to discuss please e-mail me and we will respond to your questions and also we will include it each month.

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

Thanks
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*******NOTICE*******

The Winston-Salem Forsyth County Inspections Division will be sponsoring a seminar for Energy Efficient Building Solutions on October 23, 2008 from 1:00 – 5:00 pm at the Ramada Inn, Clemmons, NC. The seminar is being presented by Mathis Consulting Company based in Asheville, NC.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Dan Dockery, Winston-Salem Forsyth County Inspections at 727-2084 or 462-7472. We look forward in hearing from you.