

APPENDIX C  
CODE CHANGE PROPOSAL  
NORTH CAROLINA  
BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

B-4A

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Granted by BCC \_\_\_\_\_ Petition for Rule Making Item Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Denied by BCC \_\_\_\_\_ Adopted by BCC \_\_\_\_\_ Approved by RRC \_\_\_\_\_  
Disapproved by BCC \_\_\_\_\_ Objection by RRC \_\_\_\_\_

PROPONENT: Natalie MacDonald, Chair of the BCC Mechanical Standing Committee PHONE: (919) 888-0284

REPRESENTING: BCC Mechanical Standing Committee

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North Carolina State Building Code, Volume 2024 NC Residential Code-Chapter 12-23 Section \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ONE: [ ] Revise section to read as follows: [ ] Delete section and substitute the following:  
[X] Add new section to read as follows: [ ] Delete section without substitution:

~~LINE THROUGH MATERIAL TO BE DELETED~~                      UNDERLINE MATERIAL TO BE ADDED

Please type. Continue proposal or reason on plain paper attached to this form. See reverse side for instructions.

The 2024 NCRC-Chapter 12 through 23 is based on Chapter 12 through 23 of the 2021 IRC which can be viewed at: [Digital Codes \(iccsafe.org\)](https://www.iccsafe.org)

The NC amendments to Chapter 12 through 23 of the 2021 IRC that make up 2024 NCRC-Chapter 12 through 23 are shown in ATTACHMENT A below

Will this proposal change the cost of construction?    Decrease [ ]    Increase [ ]    No [X]  
Will this proposal increase to the cost of a dwelling by \$80 or more?    Yes [ ]    No [X]  
Will this proposal affect the Local or State funds?    Local [ ]    State [ ]    No [X]  
Will this proposal cause a substantial economic impact (≥\$1,000,000)?    Yes [ ]    No [X]

- Non-Substantial – Provide an economic analysis including benefit/cost estimates.
- Substantial – The economic analysis must also include 2-alternatives, time value of money and risk analysis.
- Pursuant to §143-138(a1)(2) a cost-benefit analysis is required for all proposed amendments to the NC Energy Conservation Code. The Building Code Council shall also require same for the NC Residential Code, Chapter 11.

REASON: This amendment is proposed to protect the public by updating the code to current standards of practice.

BCC CODE CHANGES

Signature: CARL MARTIN

Date: May 1, 2023

FORM 11/26/19

# ATTACHMENT A

**THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS PROPOSED NORTH CAROLINA AMENDMENTS TO THE 2021 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE (IRC) FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING THE 2024 EDITION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENTIAL CODE.**

**UNDERLINED TEXT INDICATE NORTH CAROLINA PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE 2021 INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE FOR THE 2024 NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENTIAL CODE.**

~~STRUCKTHROUGH~~ TEXT INDICATES IRC TEXT THAT IS PROPOSED TO BE REMOVED FROM THE 2024 NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENTIAL CODE.

TEXT THAT IS HIGHLIGHTED IN **YELLOW** INDICATES PROPOSED NORTH CAROLINA AMENDMENTS THAT ARE NEW OR DIFFERENT THAN THE 2018 NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENTIAL CODE.

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**User notes:**

**About this chapter:** Chapter 12 supplements Chapter 1 and establishes the scope of coverage for Chapters 13 through 24. The applicability of code provisions to existing mechanical systems and appliances is established herein.

**Code development reminder:** Code change proposals to this chapter will be considered by the IRC—Plumbing/Mechanical Code Development Committee during the 2021 (Group A) Code Development Cycle. See explanation on page iv.

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The text of this chapter is extracted from the 2018 edition of the *North Carolina Mechanical Code* and has been modified where necessary to conform to the scope of application of the *North Carolina Residential Code for One and Two Family Dwellings*. The section numbers appearing in parentheses after each section number are the section numbers of the corresponding text in the *North Carolina Mechanical Code*.

**M1201.1 (101.1) Scope.** The provisions of Chapters 12 through 24 shall regulate the design, installation, maintenance, alteration and inspection of mechanical systems that are permanently installed and used to control environmental conditions within buildings. These chapters shall also regulate those mechanical systems, system components, equipment and appliances specifically addressed in this code.

**M1201.2 Application.** In addition to the general administration requirements of Chapter 1, the administrative provisions of this chapter shall apply to the mechanical requirements of Chapters 13 through 24.

**M1202.1 (102.4) Additions, alterations or repairs.** Additions, alterations, renovations or repairs to a mechanical system shall conform to the requirements for a new mechanical system without requiring the existing mechanical system to comply with all of the requirements of this code. Additions, alterations or repairs shall not cause an existing mechanical system to become unsafe, hazardous or overloaded. Minor additions, alterations or repairs to existing mechanical systems shall meet the provisions for new construction, unless such work is done in the same manner and arrangement as was in the existing system, is not hazardous, and is approved.

**M1202.2 (102.2) Existing installations.** Except as otherwise provided for in this code, a provision in this code shall not require the removal, alteration or abandonment of, nor prevent the continued use and maintenance of, an existing mechanical system lawfully in existence at the time of the adoption of this code.

**M1202.3 (102.3) Maintenance.** Mechanical systems, both existing and new, and parts thereof shall be maintained in proper operating condition in accordance with the original design and in a safe and sanitary condition. Devices or safeguards that are required by this code shall be maintained in compliance with the code edition under which such devices and safeguards were installed. The owner or the owner's designated agent shall be responsible for maintenance of the mechanical systems. To determine compliance with this provision, the building official shall have the authority to require a mechanical system to be reinspected. Deleted.

**M1202.4 (102.6) Historic buildings.**

The provisions of this code relating to the construction, alteration, repair, enlargement, restoration, relocation or moving of buildings or structures shall not be mandatory for existing buildings or structures identified and classified by the state or local jurisdiction as historic buildings where such buildings or structures are judged by the code official to be safe and in the public interest of health, safety and welfare regarding any proposed construction, alteration, repair, enlargement, restoration, relocation or moving of buildings.

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**User notes:**

**About this chapter:** Chapter 13 contains general requirements that apply broadly and that would not be at home in other chapters that address specific subject matter. Coverage includes: Testing and certification of materials, installation requirements, listing and labeling, access to appliances, clearances to combustibles, and protection of mechanical systems and the building structure.

**Code development reminder:** Code change proposals to this chapter will be considered by the IRC—Plumbing/Mechanical Code Development Committee during the 2021 (Group A) Code Development Cycle. See explanation on page iv.

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The text of this chapter is extracted from the 2018 edition of the *North Carolina Mechanical Code* and has been modified where necessary to conform to the scope of application of the *North Carolina Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings*. The section numbers appearing in parentheses after each section number are the section numbers of the corresponding text in the *North Carolina Mechanical Code*.

**M1301.1 Flood-resistant installation.** In flood hazard areas as established by Table R301.2, mechanical appliances, equipment and systems shall be located or installed in accordance with Section R322.1.6.

**M1301.2 (301.3) Identification.** Each length of pipe and tubing and each pipe fitting utilized in a mechanical system shall bear the identification of the manufacturer as required by the listing or standard for the piping or tubing.

**M1301.3 Installation of materials.** Materials shall be installed in strict accordance with the standards under which the materials are accepted and approved. In the absence of such installation procedures, the manufacturer's instructions shall be followed. Where the requirements of referenced standards or manufacturer's instructions do not conform to minimum provisions of this code, the provisions of this code shall apply.

**M1301.4 (301.4) Plastic pipe, fittings and components.** Plastic pipe, fittings and components shall be third-party certified as conforming to NSF 14. Deleted, and meet the applicable standards listed in this code for the specific service use.

**M1301.5 Third-party testing and certification.** Piping, tubing and fittings shall comply with the applicable referenced standards, specifications and performance criteria of this code and shall be identified in accordance with Section M1301.2. Piping, tubing and fittings shall either be tested by an approved third-party testing agency or certified by an approved third-party certification agency.

**M1302.1 (301.7) Listed and labeled.** Appliances regulated by this code shall be listed and labeled for the application in which they are installed and used, unless otherwise approved in accordance with Section R104.11105 of the *North Carolina Administrative Code and Policies*.

**Exceptions:**

1. Listing and labeling of equipment and appliances used for refrigeration shall be in accordance with Section 1101.2 of the *North Carolina Mechanical Code*.
2. Field erected equipment shall be deemed acceptable, provided it is assembled using listed components and parts, if the design thereof is by a registered design professional.

**M1303.1 (301.9) Label information.** A permanent factory-applied nameplate(s) shall be affixed to appliances on which shall appear, in legible lettering, the manufacturer's name or trademark, the model number, a serial number and the seal or mark of the testing agency. A label also shall include the following:

1. Electrical appliances. Electrical rating in volts, amperes and motor phase; identification of individual electrical components in volts, amperes or watts and motor phase; and in Btu/h (W) output and required clearances.
2. Absorption units. Hourly rating in Btu/h (W), minimum hourly rating for units having step or automatic modulating controls, type of fuel, type of refrigerant, cooling capacity in Btu/h (W) and required clearances.
3. Fuel-burning units. Hourly rating in Btu/h (W), type of fuel approved for use with the appliance and required clearances.

4. Electric comfort-heating **appliances**. The electric rating in volts, amperes and phase; Btu/h (W) output rating; individual marking for each electrical component in amperes or watts, volts and phase; and required clearances from combustibles.
5. Maintenance instructions. Required regular maintenance actions and title or publication number for the operation and maintenance manual for that particular model and type of product.

**M1304.1 (301.12) Fuel types.** Fuel-fired *appliances* shall be designed for use with the type of fuel to which they will be connected and the altitude at which they are installed. *Appliances* that comprise parts of the building mechanical system shall not be converted for the use of a different fuel, except where *approved* and converted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The fuel input rate shall not be increased or decreased beyond the limit rating for the altitude at which the *appliance* is installed.

**M1305.1 (306.1) Appliance access for inspection service, repair and replacement.** *Appliances* shall be **located to allow for access for** inspection, service, repair and replacement without removing permanent construction, other *appliances*, or any other piping or ducts not connected to the *appliance* being inspected, serviced, repaired or replaced. A level working space not less than 30 inches deep and 30 inches wide (762 mm by 762 mm) shall be provided in front of the control side to service an *appliance*.

**M1305.1.1 (306.1.1) Furnaces and air handlers. Deleted.**

**M1305.1.1 (306.2) Appliances in rooms.** *Appliances* installed in a compartment, alcove, *basement* or similar space shall be accessed by an opening or door and an unobstructed passageway measuring not less than 24 inches (610 mm) wide and large enough to allow removal of the largest *appliance* in the space, provided there is a level service space of not less than 30 inches (762 mm) deep and the height of the *appliance*, but not less than 30 inches (762 mm), at the front or service side of the *appliance* with the door open.

**M1305.1.2 (306.3) Appliances in attics and above hard ceilings.** *Attics* containing *appliances* shall be provided with an opening and a clear and unobstructed passageway large enough to allow removal of the largest component of the appliance, but not less than 30 inches (762 mm) high and 22 inches (559 mm) wide and not more than 20 feet (6096 mm) long measured along the centerline of the passageway from the opening to the *appliance*. The passageway shall have continuous solid flooring in accordance with Chapter 5 not less than 24 inches (610 mm) wide. A level service space not less than 30 inches (762 mm) deep and 30 inches (762 mm) wide shall be present along all sides of the *appliance* where access is required. The clear access opening dimensions shall be not less than of 20 inches by 30 inches (508 mm by 762 mm), and large enough to allow removal of the largest component of the appliance *appliance*.

**Exceptions:**

1. The passageway and level service space are not required where the *appliance* (or disassembled appliance) can be serviced and removed through the required opening.
2. Where the passageway is unobstructed and not less than 6 feet (1829 mm) high and 22 inches (559 mm) wide for its entire length, the passageway shall be not more than 50 feet (15 250 mm) long. Where the passageway is not less than 6 feet (1829 mm) high for its entire length, the passageway shall not be limited in length.

**M1305.1.2.1 (306.3.1) Electrical requirements.** A luminaire controlled by a switch located at the required passageway opening and a receptacle outlet shall be installed at or near the *equipment* or *appliance* location in accordance with ~~Chapter 39~~ the North Carolina Electrical Code. Exposed lamps shall be protected from damage by location or lamp guards. ~~lighting outlet and receptacle. For reference and coordination purposes only, refer to the North Carolina Electrical Code, Article 210.63 for receptacles, and Article 210.70 (C) for lighting outlet and switch locations.~~

**M1305.1.3 (306.4) Appliances under floors and exterior grade installations.** Underfloor spaces containing *appliances* shall be provided with an unobstructed passageway large enough to remove the largest component of the appliance, but not less than 30 inches (762 mm) high and 22 inches (559 mm) wide 22 inches (559 mm) high and 36 inches (914 mm) wide, nor more than 20 feet (6096 mm) long measured along the centerline of the passageway from the opening to the *appliance*. A level service space not less than 30 inches (762 mm) deep and 30 inches (762 mm) wide shall be present at the front or service side of the *appliance*. If the depth of the passageway or the service space exceeds 12 inches (305 mm) below the adjoining grade, the walls of the passageway shall be lined with concrete or masonry extending 4 inches (102 mm) above the adjoining grade in accordance with Chapter 4. The rough-framed access opening dimensions shall be not less than 22 inches high by 30 inches wide (559 mm by 762 mm), and large enough to remove the largest component of the appliance.

**Exceptions:**

1. The passageway is not required where the level service space is present when the access is open, and the *appliance* can be serviced and removed through the required opening.
2. ~~Where the passageway is unobstructed and not less than 6 feet (1829 mm) high and 22 inches (559 mm) wide for its entire length, the passageway shall not be limited in length. Where the passageway is not less than 6 feet (1829 mm) high for its entire length, the passageway shall not be limited in length.~~

**M1305.1.3.1 (304.10.1) Ground clearance.** *Equipment* and *appliances* supported from the ground shall be level and firmly supported on a concrete slab or other *approved* material extending not less than 3/2 inches (76 mm) above the adjoining ground. Such support shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions. *Appliances* suspended from the floor shall have a clearance of not less than 6 inches (152 mm) from the ground.

~~**M1305.1.43.1.1 (304.10.1) Exterior grade installations.** Equipment and appliances installed above grade level shall be supported on a solid base or approved material a minimum of 2 inches (51 mm) thick.~~

~~**M1305.1.43.1.2 (304.10.2) Under floor installation.** Suspended equipment shall be a minimum of 6 inches (152 mm) above the adjoining grade. See Section M1601.4.8 for ductwork support heights.~~

~~**M1305.1.43.1.3 (304.10.3) Crawl space supports.** A support shall be provided at each corner of the unit not less than 8 inches by 8 inches (203.2 mm by 203.2 mm). The unit shall be supported a minimum of 2 inches (51 mm) above grade. When constructed of brick, the bricks shall be mortared together. All units stacked shall be mortared together. Fabricated units, formed concrete, or other approved materials shall be permitted.~~

~~**M1305.1.43.1.4 (304.10.4) Drainage.** Below grade installations shall be provided with a natural drain or an automatic lift or sump pump. For pit requirements, see Section M1305.1.43.2.~~

**M1305.1.3.2 Pit locations.** Appliances installed in pits or excavations shall not come in direct contact with the surrounding soil and shall be installed not less than 3/2 inches (76 mm) above the pit floor. The sides of the pit or excavation shall be held back not less than 12 inches (305 mm) from the *appliance*. Where the depth exceeds 12 inches (305 mm) below adjoining grade, the walls of the pit or excavation shall be lined with concrete or masonry. Such concrete or masonry shall extend not less than 4 inches (102 mm) above adjoining grade and shall have sufficient lateral load-bearing capacity to resist collapse. Excavation on the control side of the *appliance* shall extend horizontally not less than 30 inches (762 mm). The *appliance* shall be protected from flooding in an *approved* manner.

~~**M1305.1.43.2 (303.7) Pit locations.** Appliances installed in pits or excavations shall not come in direct contact with the surrounding soil. The sides of the pit or excavation shall be held back not less than 12 inches (305 mm) from the *appliance*. Where the depth exceeds 12 inches (305 mm) below adjoining grade, the walls of the pit or excavation shall be lined with concrete or masonry. Such concrete or masonry shall extend not less than 4 inches (102 mm) above adjoining grade and shall have sufficient lateral load bearing capacity to resist collapse. The *appliance* shall be protected from flooding in an *approved* manner.~~

**M1305.1.3.3 Electrical requirements.** A luminaire controlled by a switch located at the required passageway opening and a receptacle outlet shall be installed at or near the equipment or appliance location in accordance with Chapter 39 the North Carolina Electrical Code. Exposed lamps shall be protected from damage by location or lamp guards.

**M1306.1 (304.9) Appliance clearance.** ~~Appliances shall be installed with the clearances from unprotected combustible materials as indicated on the appliance label and in the manufacturer's installation instructions. Heat-producing equipment and appliances shall be installed to maintain the required clearances to combustible construction as specified in the listing and manufacturer's instructions. Such clearances shall be reduced only in accordance with Section M1306. Clearances to combustibles shall include such considerations as door swing, drawer pull, overhead projections or shelving and window swing, shutters, coverings and drapes. Devices such as doorstops or limits, closers, drapery ties or guards shall not be used to provide the required clearances.~~

**M1306.2 Clearance reduction.** The reduction of required clearances to combustible assemblies or **combustible materials** shall be based on Section M1306.2.1 or M1306.2.2.

**M1306.2.1 (308.4.1) Labeled assemblies.** ~~The allowable clearance shall be based on an approved reduced clearance protective assembly that is listed and labeled in accordance with UL 1618. The allowable clearance reduction shall be based on an approved reduced clearance protective assembly that has been tested and bears the label of an approved agency.~~

**M1306.2.2 (308.4.2) Reduction table.** Reduction of clearances shall be in accordance with the appliance manufacturer's instructions and Table M1306.2. Forms of protection with ventilated airspace shall conform to the following requirements:

1. Not less than 1-inch (25 mm) airspace shall be provided between the protection and combustible wall surface.
2. Air circulation shall be provided by having edges of the wall protection open not less than 1 inch (25 mm).
3. If the wall protection is mounted on a single flat wall away from corners, air circulation shall be provided by having the bottom and top edges, or the side and top edges not less than 1 inch (25 mm).
4. Wall protection covering two walls in a corner shall be open at the bottom and top edges not less than 1 inch (25 mm).

**TABLE M1306.2**

**REDUCTION OF CLEARANCES WITH SPECIFIED FORMS OF PROTECTION<sup>a, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l</sup>**

TYPE OF PROTECTION APPLIED TO AND COVERING ALL SURFACES OF COMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL WITHIN THE DISTANCE SPECIFIED AS THE REQUIRED CLEARANCE WITH NO PROTECTION (See Figures M1306.1 and M1306.2)	WHERE THE REQUIRED CLEARANCE WITHOUT PROTECTION FROM APPLIANCE, VENT CONNECTOR, OR SINGLE-WALL METAL PIPE IS:									
	36 inches		18 inches		12 inches		9 inches		6 inches	
	Allowable clearances with specified protection (Inches) <sup>b</sup>									
	Use Column 1 for clearances above an appliance or horizontal connector. Use column 2 for clearances from an appliance, vertical connector and single-wall metal pipe.									
	Above column 1	Sides and rear column 2	Above column 1	Sides and rear column 2	Above column 1	Sides and rear column 2	Above column 1	Sides and rear column 2	Above column 1	Sides and rear column 2
3 1/2-inch-thick masonry wall without ventilated airspace	—	24	—	12	—	9	—	6	—	5
1/2-inch insulation board over 1-inch glass fiber or mineral wool batts	24	18	12	9	9	6	6	5	4	3
Galvanized sheet steel having a minimum thickness of 0.0236-inch (No. 24 gage) over 1-inch glass fiber or mineral wool batts reinforced with wire or rear face with a ventilated airspace	18	12	9	6	6	4	5	3	3	3
3 1/2-inch-thick masonry wall with ventilated airspace	—	12	—	6	—	6	—	6	—	6
Galvanized sheet steel having a minimum thickness of 0.0236-inch (No. 24 gage) with a ventilated airspace 1 inch off the combustible assembly	18	12	9	6	6	4	5	3	3	2



1/2-inch-thick insulation board with ventilated airspace	18	12	9	6	6	4	5	3	3	3
Galvanized sheet steel having a minimum thickness of 0.0236-inch (No. 24 gage) with ventilated airspace over 24 gage sheet steel with a ventilated space	18	12	9	6	6	4	5	3	3	3
1-inch glass fiber or mineral wool batts sandwiched between two sheets of galvanized sheet steel having a minimum thickness of 0.0236-inch (No. 24 gage) with a ventilated airspace	18	12	9	6	6	4	5	3	3	3

TYPE OF PROTECTIVE ASSEMBLY <sup>a</sup>	REDUCED CLEARANCE WITH PROTECTION (inches) <sup>b</sup>							
	Horizontal combustible assemblies located above the heat source				Horizontal combustible assemblies located beneath the heat source and all vertical combustible assemblies			
	Required clearance to combustibles without protection (inches) <sup>a</sup>				Required clearance to combustibles without protection (inches)			
	36	18	9	6	36	18	9	6
Galvanized sheet steel, having a minimum thickness of 0.0236 inch (No. 24 gage), mounted on 1-inch glass fiber or mineral wool batt reinforced with wire on the back, 1 inch off the combustible assembly	18	9	5	3	12	6	3	2
Galvanized sheet steel, having a minimum thickness of 0.0236 inch (No. 24 gage), spaced 1 inch off the combustible assembly	18	9	5	3	12	6	3	2
Two layers of galvanized sheet steel, having a minimum thickness of 0.0236 inch (No. 24 gage), having a 1-inch airspace between layers, spaced 1 inch off the combustible assembly	18	9	5	3	12	6	3	2
Two layers of galvanized sheet steel, having a minimum thickness of 0.0236 inch (No. 24 gage), having 1 inch of fiberglass insulation between layers, spaced 1 inch off the combustible assembly	18	9	5	3	12	6	3	2
0.5-inch inorganic insulating board, over 1 inch of fiberglass or mineral wool batt, against the combustible assembly	24	12	6	4	18	9	5	3
3 1/2-inch brick wall, spaced 1 inch off the combustible wall	12	6	6	6	12	6	6	6
3 1/2-inch brick wall, against the combustible wall	24	12	6	5	24	12	6	5

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 pound per cubic foot = 16.019 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, °C = [(°F) - 32]/1.8, 1 Btu/(h × ft<sup>2</sup> × °F/in.) = 0.001442299 (W/cm<sup>2</sup> × °C/cm).

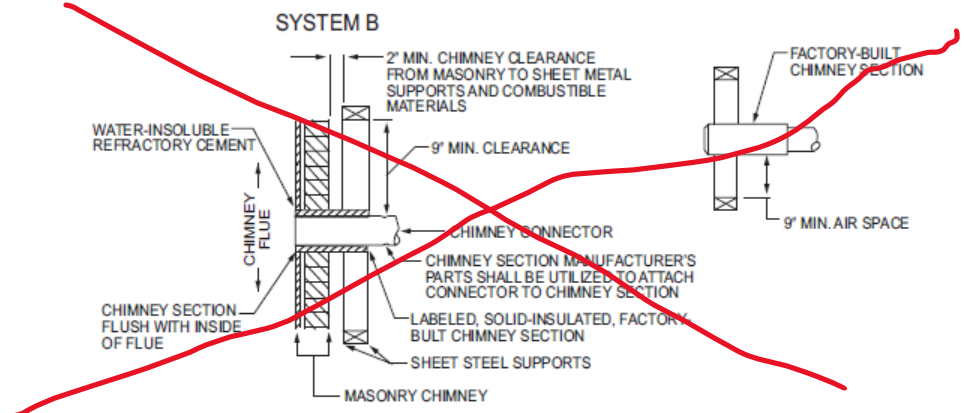
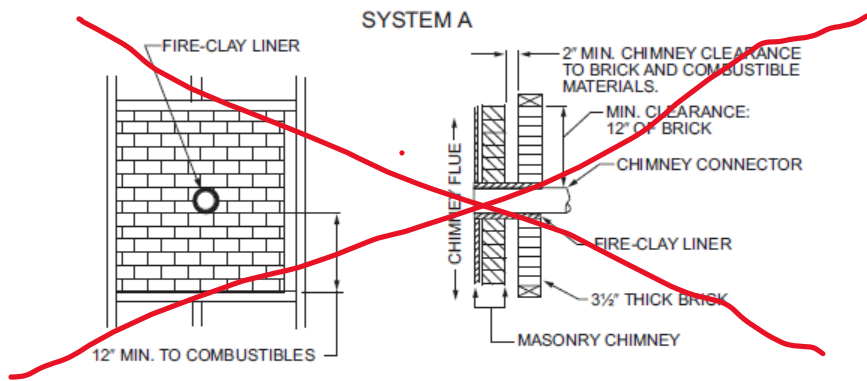
a. Reduction of clearances from combustible materials shall not interfere with combustion air, draft hood clearance and relief, and accessibility of servicing.

- b. Clearances shall be measured from the surface of the heat-producing appliance or equipment to the outer surface of the combustible material or combustible assembly.
- c. Spacers and ties shall be of noncombustible material. Spacers and ties shall not be used directly opposite appliance or connector.
- d. Where all clearance reduction systems use a ventilated airspace, adequate provision for air circulation shall be provided as described (see Figures M1306.1 and M1306.2).
- e. There shall be not less than 1 inch between clearance reduction systems and combustible walls and ceilings for reduction systems using ventilated airspace.
- f. If a wall protector is mounted on a single flat wall away from corners, adequate air circulation shall be permitted to be provided by leaving only the bottom and top edges or only the side and top edges open with not less than a 1-inch air gap.
- g. Mineral wool and glass fiber batts (blanket or board) shall have a minimum density of 8 pounds per cubic foot and a minimum melting point of 1,500°F.
- h. Insulation material used as part of a clearance reduction system shall have a thermal conductivity of 1.0 Btu inch per square foot per hour °F or less. Insulation board shall be formed of noncombustible material.
- i. There shall be not less than 1 inch between the appliance and the protector. The clearance between the appliance and the combustible surface shall not be reduced below that allowed in this table.
- j. All clearances and thicknesses are minimum; larger clearances and thicknesses are acceptable.
- k. Listed single-wall connectors shall be permitted to be installed in accordance with the terms of their listing and the manufacturer's instructions.
- l. For limitations on clearance reduction for solid-fuel-burning appliances, see Section M1306.2.3.

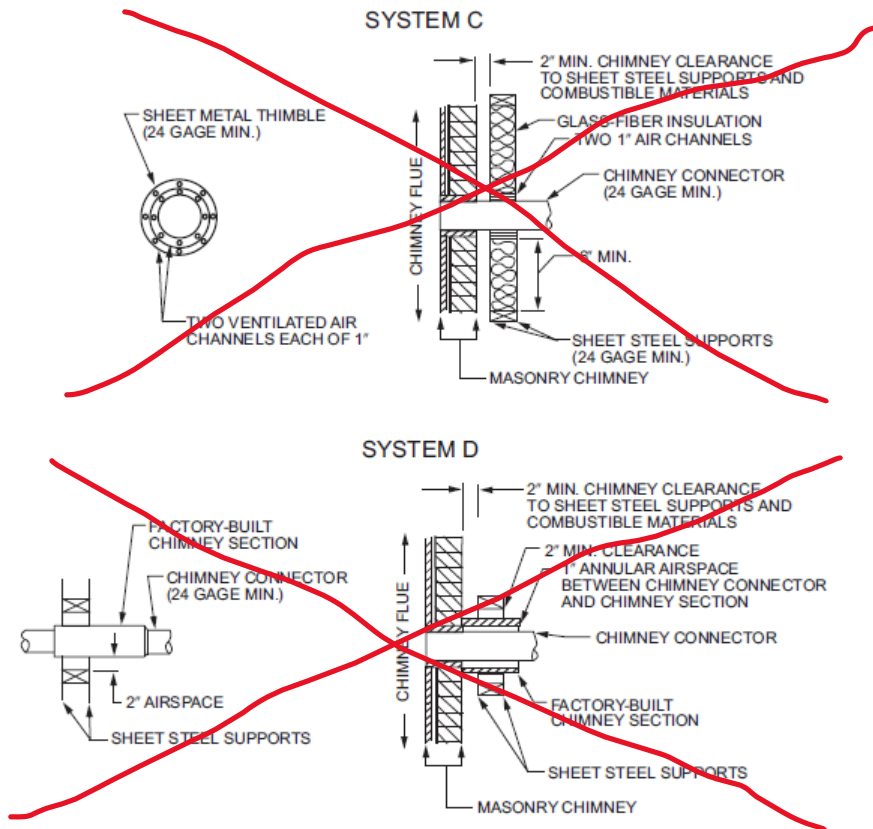
**M1306.2.3 Solid-fuel appliances.** Table M1306.2 shall not be used to reduce the clearance required for solid-fuel appliances *listed* for installation with minimum clearances of 12 inches (305 mm) or less. For appliances *listed* for installation with minimum clearances greater than 12 inches (305 mm), Table M1306.2 shall not be used to reduce the clearance to less than 12 inches (305 mm).

**M1306.2.4 (308.4.2.2) Masonry chimneys.** The *clearance* reduction methods specified in Table M1306.2 shall not be utilized to reduce the *clearances* required for masonry *chimneys* as specified in Chapter 10 and the *International Building Code*.

**M1306.2.5 (308.4.2.3) Chimney connector passthroughs.** The *clearance* reduction methods specified in Table M1306.2 shall not be utilized to reduce the *clearances* required for *chimney* connector pass-throughs as specified in Table M1803.3.5 and Figure M138063.43.5.



~~FIGURE M1206.2.5~~  
~~CHIMNEY CONNECTOR SYSTEMS~~



~~FIGURE M1306.2.3—continued  
CHIMNEY CONNECTOR SYSTEMS~~

**M1306.2.6 (308.4.2.4) Masonry fireplaces.** The clearance reduction methods specified in Table M1306.2 shall not be utilized to reduce the clearances required for masonry fireplaces as specified in Chapter 10 and the *International Building Code*.

**M1307.1 (304.1) General.** Installation of appliances shall conform to the conditions of their listing and label and the manufacturer's instructions. The manufacturer's operating and installation instructions shall remain attached to the appliance. Equipment and appliances shall be installed as required by the terms of their approval, in accordance with the conditions of the listing, the manufacturer's installation instructions and this code. Manufacturer's installation instructions shall be available on the job site at the time of inspection.

**M1307.2 Anchorage of appliances.** Appliances designed to be fixed in position shall be fastened or anchored in an approved manner. In *Seismic Design Categories* D<sub>0</sub>, D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>2</sub>, and in townhouses in *Seismic Design Category* C, water heaters and thermal storage units shall be anchored or strapped to resist horizontal displacement caused by earthquake motion in accordance with one of the following:

1. Anchorage and strapping shall be designed to resist a horizontal force equal to one-third of the operating weight of the water heater storage tank, acting in any horizontal direction. Strapping shall be at points within the upper one-third and lower one-third of the appliance's vertical dimensions. At the lower point, the strapping shall maintain a minimum distance of 4 inches (102 mm) above the controls.
2. The anchorage strapping shall be in accordance with the appliance manufacturer's recommendations.

~~Deleted.~~

**M1307.3 (304.3) Elevation of ignition source.** Appliances having an ignition source shall be elevated such that the source of ignition is not less than 18 inches (457 mm) above the floor in garages. For the purpose of this section,

rooms or spaces that are not part of the *living space* of a *dwelling unit* and that communicate with a private garage through openings shall be considered to be part of the garage.

**Exception:** Elevation of the *ignition source* is not required for *appliances* that are *listed* as flammable-vapor-ignition resistant.

**M1307.3.1 Protection from impact.** *Appliances* shall not be installed in a location subject to vehicle damage except where protected by *approved barriers*.

**M1307.3.2 Private garages.** *Appliances* located in private garages and carports shall be installed with a minimum clearance of 6 feet (1829 mm) above the floor. *Appliances* located out of the normal path of travel are not required to be protected.

**Exception:** The requirements of this section shall not apply where the *appliances* are protected from motor vehicle impact and installed in accordance with Section M1307.3.

**M1307.4 (304.5) Hydrogen-generating and refueling operations.** *Ventilation* shall be required in accordance with Section M1307.4.1, M1307.4.2 or M1307.4.3 in private garages that contain hydrogen-generating *appliances* or refueling systems. For the purpose of this section, rooms or spaces that are not part of the *living space* of a *dwelling unit* and that communicate directly with a private garage through openings shall be considered to be part of the private garage. *As per Section 703.2.1 of the International Fuel Gas Code, flammable gas cylinders in occupancies regulated by the International Residential Code shall not exceed 250 cubic feet (7.1 m<sup>3</sup>) at normal temperature and pressure (NTP).*

**M1307.5 Electrical appliances.** Electrical *appliances* shall be installed in accordance with Chapters 14, 15, 19, and 20 and 34 through 43 and the *North Carolina Electrical Code*.

**M1307.7 Prohibited support.** Gypsum board shall not be used as a support base under an *appliance*.

**M1308.1 (302.3, 302.5) Drilling and notching.** Wood-framed structural members shall be drilled, notched or altered in accordance with the provisions of Sections R502.8, R602.6, R602.6.1 and R802.7. Holes in load-bearing members of cold-formed steel *light-frame construction* shall **not** be permitted *unless prescribed by a registered design professional* only in accordance with Sections R505.2.6, R603.2.6 and R804.2.6. *In accordance with the provisions of Sections R505.3.5, R603.3.4 and R804.3.3, cutting and notching of flanges and lips of load-bearing members of cold-formed steel light frame construction shall not be permitted unless prescribed by a registered design professional.* Structural insulated panels (SIPs) shall be drilled and notched or altered in accordance with the provisions of Section R610.7.

**M1308.2 (305.5) Protection against physical damage.** Where piping will be concealed within *light-frame construction* assemblies, the piping shall be protected against penetration by fasteners in accordance with Sections M1308.2.1 through M1308.2.3.

**Exception:** Cast-iron piping and galvanized steel piping shall not be required to be protected.

**M1308.2.1 Piping through bored holes or notches.** Where *piping* is installed through holes or notches in framing members and is located less than 1½ inches (38 mm) from the framing member face to which wall, ceiling or floor membranes will be attached, the pipe shall be protected by shield plates that cover the width of the pipe and the framing member and that extend 2 inches (51 mm) to each side of the framing member. Where the framing member that the piping passes through is a bottom plate, bottom track, top plate or top track, the shield plates shall cover the framing member and extend 2 inches (51 mm) above the bottom framing member(s) and 2 inches (51 mm) below the top framing member(s).

**M1308.2.2 Piping in other locations.** Where piping is located within a framing member (*i.e. steel studs*) and is less than 1½ inches (38 mm) from the framing member face to which wall, ceiling or floor membranes will be attached, the piping shall be protected by shield plates that cover the width and length of the piping. Where piping is located outside of a framing member and is located less than 1½ inches (38 mm) from the nearest edge of the face of the framing member to which the membrane will be attached, the piping shall be protected by shield plates that cover the width and length of the piping.

**M1308.3 (305.5) Piping Support.** *Piping systems shall be supported in accordance with Section M2101.9. Hanger spacing intervals for piping supports shall be per Table M2101.9.*

**M1308.4 Pipe and duct penetrations.** Openings for pipe and duct penetrations in walls, floors or ceilings shall be larger than the penetrating pipe or duct. Openings through concrete or masonry building elements shall be sleeved. The annular space surrounding pipe and duct penetrations shall be protected in an *approved* manner in accordance with this code.

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**User notes:**

— **About this chapter:** Chapter 14 addresses the indoor environmental control systems and appliances typically found in dwelling units. Coverage includes general requirements for equipment and appliance sizing, condensate disposal, access and support, and specific coverage for more than a dozen different types of space conditioning equipment and appliances common to dwelling units.

— **Code development reminder:** Code change proposals to this chapter will be considered by the IRC—Plumbing/Mechanical Code Development Committee during the 2021 (Group A) Code Development Cycle. See explanation on page iv.

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The text of this chapter is extracted from the 2018 edition of the North Carolina Mechanical Code and has been modified where necessary to conform to the scope of application of the North Carolina Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings. The section numbers appearing in parentheses after each section number are the section numbers of the corresponding text in the North Carolina Mechanical i.e., (312.1) and Residential i.e., (R1004.1) Codes.

**M1401.2 Access.** Heating and cooling *equipment* and *appliances* shall be located with respect to building construction and other *equipment* and *appliances* to permit maintenance, servicing and replacement. Clearances shall be maintained to permit cleaning of heating and cooling surfaces; replacement of filters, blowers, motors, controls and vent connections; lubrication of moving parts; and adjustments.

**Exception:** Access shall not be required for ducts, piping, or other components *approved* for concealment.

**M1401.3 (312.1) Equipment and appliance sizing.** Heating and cooling *equipment* and *appliances* shall be sized in accordance with ACCA Manual S or other *approved* sizing methodologies based on building loads calculated in accordance with ACCA Manual J or other *approved* heating and cooling calculation methodologies.

**Exception:** Heating and cooling *equipment* and *appliance* sizing shall not be limited to the capacities determined in accordance with ACCA Manual S where either of the following conditions applies:

1. The specified *equipment* or *appliance* utilizes multistage technology or variable refrigerant flow technology and the loads calculated in accordance with the *approved* heating and cooling calculation methodology are within the range of the manufacturer's published capacities for that *equipment* or *appliance*.
2. The specified *equipment* or *appliance* manufacturer's published capacities cannot satisfy both the total and sensible heat gains calculated in accordance with the *approved* heating and cooling calculation methodology and the next larger standard size unit is specified.

For permitting, inspections, certificate of compliance or certificate of occupancy, verification of *Calculations for HVAC Systems—ACCA Manual D, ACCA Manual J, ACCA Manual S load and sizing* calculation submittals and review shall not be required.

**M1401.4 (303.5) Outdoor installations.** *Equipment* and *appliances* installed outdoors shall be *listed* and *labeled* for outdoor installation. Supports and foundations shall prevent excessive vibration, settlement or movement of the *equipment*. Supports and foundations shall be in accordance with Section M1305.1.3.1.

**M1401.5 Flood hazard.** In flood hazard areas as established by Table R301.2, heating and cooling *equipment* and *appliances* shall be located or installed in accordance with Section R322.1.6.

**M1402.1 (918.1) General.** Oil-fired central furnaces shall conform to ANSI/UL 727. Electric furnaces shall conform to UL 1995 or UL/CSA/ANCE 60335-2-40. Solid fuel furnaces shall be tested in accordance with UL 391.

**M1402.4 (918.3) Dampers.** Volume dampers shall not be placed in the air inlet to a furnace in a manner that will reduce the required air to the furnace.

**M1402.5 (918.4) Circulating air ducts for forced-air warm-air furnaces.** Circulating air for fuel-burning, forced air-type, warm-air furnaces shall be conducted into the blower housing from outside the furnace enclosure by continuous air-tight ducts.

**M1402.6 (918.5) Outdoor and return air openings.** Outdoor intake openings shall be located in accordance with Section M1602.1. Return air openings shall be located in accordance with Section M1602.2.

**M1402.7 (918.6) Outdoor opening protection.** Outdoor air intake openings shall be protected in accordance with Section R303.6.

**M1402.8 (918.7) Refrigeration coils in warm-air furnaces.** When a cooling coil is located in the supply plenum of a warm-air furnace, the furnace blower shall be rated at not less than 0.5-inch water column (124 Pa) static pressure unless the furnace is *listed* and *labeled* for use with a cooling coil. Cooling coils shall not be located upstream from *heat exchangers* unless *listed* and *labeled* for such use. Conversion of existing furnaces for use with cooling coils shall be permitted provided the furnace will operate within the temperature rise specified for the furnace.

**M1403.1 (918.2) Heat pumps.** Electric heat pumps shall be *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with UL 1995 or UL/CSA/ANCE 60335-2-40.

**M1405.1 (929.1) General.** Electric baseboard convectors shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and Chapters 34 through 43 *the North Carolina Electrical Code*. Electric baseboard heaters shall be *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with UL 1042.

**M1406.1 (927) General.** Electric radiant heating systems shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and Chapters 34 through 43 *the North Carolina Electrical Code* and shall be *listed* for the application.

**M1406.2 Clearances.** Clearances for radiant heating panels or elements to any wiring, outlet boxes and junction boxes used for installing electrical devices or mounting luminaires shall comply with Chapters 34 through 43 *the North Carolina Electrical Code*.

**M1407.1 (930.1) General.** Electric duct heaters shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and Chapters 34 through 43 *the North Carolina Electrical Code*. Electric duct heaters shall comply with UL 1996.

**M1407.2 (930.2) Installation.** Electric duct heaters shall be installed so that they will not create a fire hazard. Class 1 ducts, duct coverings and linings shall be interrupted at each heater to provide the clearances specified in the manufacturer's installation instructions. Such interruptions are not required for duct heaters *listed* and *labeled* for zero clearance to *combustible materials*. Insulation installed in the immediate area of each heater shall be classified for the maximum temperature produced on the duct surface.

**M1407.3 (930.3) Installation with heat pumps and air conditioners.** Duct heaters located within 4 feet (1219 mm) of a heat pump or air conditioner shall be *listed* and *labeled* for such installations. The heat pump or air conditioner shall additionally be *listed* and *labeled* for such duct heater installations.

**M1407.4 (930.4) Access.** Duct heaters shall be *located to allow access* for servicing, and clearance shall be maintained to permit adjustment, servicing and replacement of controls and heating elements.

**M1407.5 (930.5) Fan interlock.** The fan circuit shall be provided with an interlock to prevent heater operation when the fan is not operating.

**M1408.1 (910.1) General.** Oil-fired vented *floor furnaces* shall comply with UL 729 and shall be installed in accordance with their *listing*, the manufacturer's instructions and the requirements of this code.

**M1408.2 (910.4) Clearances.** Vented *floor furnaces* shall be installed in accordance with their listing and the manufacturer's instructions.

**M1408.3 (910.2) Location.** Location of *floor furnaces* shall conform to the following requirements:

1. *Floor* registers of *floor furnaces* shall be installed not less than 6 inches (152 mm) from a wall.



2. Wall registers of **floor furnaces** shall be installed not less than 6 inches (152 mm) from the adjoining wall at inside corners.
3. The furnace register shall be located not less than 12 inches (305 mm) from doors in any position, draperies or similar combustible objects.
4. The furnace register shall be located not less than 5 feet (1524 mm) below any projecting **combustible materials**.
5. The **floor furnace** burner assembly shall not project into an occupied under-floor area.
6. The **floor furnaces** shall not be installed in concrete floor construction built on grade.
7. The **floor furnaces** shall not be installed where a door can swing within 12 inches (305 mm) of the grille opening.

**M1408.4 Access.** An opening in the foundation not less than 18 inches by 24 inches (457 mm by 610 mm), or a trap door not less than 22 inches by 30 inches (559 mm by 762 mm) shall be provided for access to a **floor furnace**. The opening and passageway shall be large enough to allow replacement of any part of the *equipment*.

**M1408.5 (910.4) Installation.** **Floor furnace** installations shall conform to the following requirements:

1. Thermostats controlling **floor furnaces** shall be located in the room in which the register of the **floor furnace** is located.
2. **Floor furnaces** shall be supported independently of the furnace floor register.
3. **Floor furnaces** shall be installed not closer than 6 inches (152 mm) to the ground. The minimum clearance shall be 2 inches (51 mm), where the lower 6 inches (152 mm) of the furnace is sealed to prevent water entry.
4. Where excavation is required for a **floor furnace** installation, the excavation shall extend 30 inches (762 mm) beyond the control side of the **floor furnace** and 12 inches (305 mm) beyond the remaining sides. Excavations shall slope outward from the perimeter of the base of the excavation to the surrounding *grade* at an angle not exceeding 45 degrees (0.79 rad) from horizontal.
5. **Floor furnaces** shall not be supported from the ground.

**M1409.1 (909.1) General.** Oil-fired vented wall furnaces shall comply with UL 730 and shall be installed in accordance with their *listing*, the manufacturer's instructions and the requirements of this code.

**M1409.2 (909.2) Location.** The location of vented wall furnaces shall conform to the following requirements:

1. Vented wall furnaces shall be located where they will not cause a fire hazard to walls, floors, combustible furnishings or doors. Vented wall furnaces installed between bathrooms and adjoining rooms shall not circulate air from bathrooms to other parts of the building.
2. Vented wall furnaces shall not be located where a door can swing within 12 inches (305 mm) of the furnace air inlet or outlet measured at right angles to the opening. Doorstops or door closers shall not be installed to obtain this clearance.

**M1409.3 (909.4) Installation.** Vented wall furnace installations shall conform to the following requirements:

1. Required wall thicknesses shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.
2. Ducts shall not be attached to a wall furnace. Casing extensions or boots shall be installed only where listed as part of a *listed and labeled appliance*.
3. A manual shutoff valve shall be installed ahead of all controls.

**M1409.4 (909.6) Access.** Vented wall furnaces shall be provided with access for cleaning of heating surfaces; removal of burners; replacement of sections, motors, controls, filters and other working parts; and for adjustments and lubrication of parts requiring such attention. Panels, grilles and access doors that must be removed for normal servicing operations shall not be attached to the building construction.

**M1410.1 (904.1, 922) General.** Vented room heaters shall be tested in accordance with ASTM E1509 for pellet-fuel burning, UL 896 for oil-fired or UL 1482 for solid fuel-fired and installed in accordance with their *listing*, the manufacturer's installation instructions and the requirements of this code.

**M1410.2 Floor mounting.** Room heaters shall be installed on noncombustible floors or *approved* assemblies constructed of *noncombustible materials* that extend not less than 18 inches (457 mm) beyond the *appliance* on all sides.

**Exceptions:**

1. *Listed* room heaters shall be installed on noncombustible floors, assemblies constructed of *noncombustible materials* or floor protectors *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with UL 1618. The materials and dimensions shall be in accordance with the *appliance* manufacturer's instructions.
2. Room heaters *listed* for installation on combustible floors without floor protection shall be installed in accordance with the *appliance* manufacturer's instructions.

**M1410.3 (905.3) Hearth extensions.** Hearth extensions for fireplace stoves shall be installed in accordance with the listing of the fireplace stove. The hearth extension shall be readily distinguishable from the surrounding floor area. *Listed* and *labeled* hearth extensions shall comply with UL 1618.

**M1411.2 Refrigeration coils in warm-air furnaces.** Where a cooling coil is located in the supply plenum of a warm-air furnace, the furnace blower shall be rated at not less than 0.5 inch water column (124 Pa) static pressure unless the furnace is *listed* and *labeled* for use with a cooling coil. Cooling coils shall not be located upstream from heat exchangers unless *listed* and *labeled* for such use. Conversion of existing furnaces for use with cooling coils shall be permitted provided that the furnace will operate within the temperature rise specified for the furnace. See Section M1402.8.

**M1411.3 (307.2) Condensate disposal.** Condensate from cooling coils, *condensing furnaces* and evaporators shall be conveyed from the drain pan outlet to an *approved* place of disposal. Such piping shall maintain a minimum horizontal slope in the direction of discharge of not less than  $\frac{1}{8}$  unit vertical in 12 units horizontal (1-percent slope). Where pumps are used, they shall be installed with a factory-equipped auxiliary high-level switch that shall shut off equipment served upon activation of the auxiliary high-level switch. Where damage to any building components will occur as a result of overflow from the pump, the pump shall also be located in the auxiliary drain pan or in a separate drain pan equipped with a separate drain line or water level detection device. Condensate shall not discharge into a street, alley or other *area* where it would cause a nuisance.

**M1411.3.1 Auxiliary and secondary drain systems.** In addition to the requirements of Section M1411.3, a secondary drain or auxiliary drain pan shall be required for each cooling or evaporator coil where damage to any building components will occur as a result of overflow from the *equipment* drain pan or stoppage in the condensate drain piping. Such piping shall maintain a minimum horizontal slope in the direction of discharge of not less than  $\frac{1}{8}$  unit vertical in 12 units horizontal (1-percent slope). Drain piping shall be not less than  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch (19 mm) nominal pipe size. One of the following methods shall be used:

1. An auxiliary drain pan with a separate drain shall be installed under the coils on which condensation will occur. The auxiliary pan drain shall discharge to a conspicuous point of disposal to alert occupants in the event of a stoppage of the primary drain. The pan shall have a minimum depth of 1.5 inches (38 mm), shall be not less than 3 inches (76 mm) larger than the unit or the coil dimensions in width and length and shall be constructed of corrosion-resistant material. Galvanized sheet steel pans shall have a minimum thickness of not less than 0.0236-inch (0.6010 mm) (No. 24 Gage). Nonmetallic pans shall have a minimum thickness of not less than 0.0625 inch (1.6 mm).

a. Appliances with primary condensate pans above appliance components. Cooling coils mounted above the air handler or furnace shall have a secondary drain piped to auxiliary pan under the air handler to avoid condensate migrating through appliance components before reaching the auxiliary drain pan.

To prevent condensate migrating through the *appliance*, whenever cooling coils are located above the auxiliary drain pan, a secondary drain shall be piped from the overflow drain of the *equipment*-supplied drain pan to the auxiliary drain pan.

2. A separate overflow drain line shall be connected to the drain pan installed with the *equipment*. This overflow drain shall discharge to a conspicuous point of disposal to alert occupants in the event of a stoppage of the primary drain. The overflow drain line shall connect to the drain pan at a higher level than the primary drain connection.
3. An auxiliary drain pan without a separate drain line shall be installed under the coils on which condensation will occur. This pan shall be equipped with a water level detection device conforming to UL 508 that will shut off the *equipment* served prior to overflow of the pan. The pan shall be equipped with a fitting to allow for drainage. The auxiliary drain pan shall be constructed in accordance with Item 1 of this section.
4. A water level detection device conforming to UL 508 shall be installed that will shut off the *equipment* served in the event that the primary drain is blocked. The device shall be installed in the primary drain line, upstream of the primary drain line trap, the overflow drain line or the *equipment*-supplied drain pan, located at a point higher than the primary drain line connection and below the overflow rim of such pan.

**Exception:** Fuel-fired *appliances* that automatically shut down operation in the event of a stoppage in the condensate drainage system.

**M1411.3.1.1 (307.2.3.1) Water-level monitoring devices.** On down-flow units and other coils that do not have secondary drain or provisions to install a secondary or auxiliary drain pan, a water-level monitoring device shall be installed inside the primary drain pan. This device shall shut off the *equipment* served in the event that the primary drain becomes restricted. Devices shall not be installed in the drain line.

**M1411.3.1.2 Appliance, equipment and insulation in pans.** Where *appliances*, *equipment* or insulation are subject to water damage when auxiliary drain pans fill, that portion of the *appliance*, *equipment* and insulation shall be installed above the rim of the pan. Supports located inside of the pan to support the *appliance* or *equipment* shall be water resistant and *approved*.

**M1411.3.2 (307.2.2) Drain pipe materials and sizes.** Components of the condensate disposal system shall be ABS, cast iron, copper, cross-linked polyethylene, CPVC, galvanized steel, PE-RT, polyethylene, polypropylene or PVC pipe or tubing. Components shall be selected for the pressure and temperature rating of the installation. Joints and connections shall be made in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 30. Condensate waste and drain line size shall be not less than 3/4-inch (19 mm) nominal diameter from the drain pan connection to the place of condensate disposal. Where the drain pipes from more than one unit are manifolded together for condensate drainage, the pipe or tubing shall be sized in accordance with an *approved* method. Hanger spacing intervals for piping supports shall be per Table M2101.9. Condensate piping shall be insulated to an R-value of not less than R-3.

Provisions shall be made to prevent the formation of condensation on the exterior of primary condensate drain piping if condensate dripping off the pipe could cause damage to any building component.

**M1411.3.4 (307.2.3.2) Appliances, equipment and insulation in pans.** Where *appliances*, *equipment* or insulation are subject to water damage when auxiliary drain pans fill, those portions of the *appliances*, *equipment* and insulation shall be installed above the flood level rim of the pan. Supports located inside of the pan to support the *appliance* or *equipment* shall be water resistant and *approved*.

**M1411.3.5 (307.2.4) Traps.** Condensate drains shall be trapped as required by the *equipment* or *appliance* manufacturer.

**M1411.3.5.1 (307.2.4.1) Ductless mini-split system traps.** Ductless mini-split *equipment* that produces condensate shall be provided with an inline check valve located in the drain line, or a trap.

**M1411.4 (307.3) Condensate pumps.** Condensate pumps located in uninhabitable spaces, such as attics and crawl spaces, shall be connected to the *appliance* or *equipment* served such that when the pump fails, the *appliance* or *equipment* will be prevented from operating. Pumps shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M1411.6 Insulation of refrigerant piping.** Piping and fittings for refrigerant vapor (suction) lines shall be insulated with insulation having a thermal resistivity of not less than R-3 and having external surface permeance not exceeding 0.05 perm [2.87 ng/(s × m<sup>2</sup> × Pa)] when tested in accordance with ASTM E96. Insulation shall be protected in accordance with Section N1103.3.1.

**M1411.6.1 Refrigerant line insulation protection.** Refrigerant piping insulation shall be protected in accordance with Section N1103.4.1.

**M1411.7 Location and protection of refrigerant piping.** Refrigerant piping installed within 1½ inches (38 mm) of the underside of *roof decks* shall be protected from damage caused by nails and other fasteners. ~~Deleted.~~

**M1411.8 Support of refrigerant piping.** Refrigerant piping and tubing shall be securely fastened to a permanent support within 6 feet (1829 mm) of the condensing unit.

**M1411.9 Locking access port caps.** Refrigerant circuit access ports located outdoors shall be fitted with locking-type tamper-resistant caps or shall be otherwise secured to prevent unauthorized access. ~~Deleted.~~

**M1411.10 Pipe penetrations.** Openings for pipe penetrations in walls, floors or ceilings shall be larger than the penetrating pipe. Openings through concrete or masonry building elements shall be sleeved. The annular space surrounding pipe penetrations shall be sealed and protected in an *approved* manner in accordance with this code.

~~Deleted.~~

**M1412.1 Approval of equipment.** Absorption systems shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Absorption *equipment* shall comply with UL 1995 or UL/CSA/ANCE 60335-2-40.

**M1412.2 Condensate disposal.** Condensate from the cooling coil shall be disposed of as provided in Section M1411.3.

**M1412.3 Insulation of piping.** Refrigerant piping, brine piping and fittings within a building shall be insulated to prevent condensation from forming on piping.

**M1412.4 Pressure-relief protection.** Absorption systems shall be protected by a pressure-relief device. Discharge from the pressure-relief device shall be located where it will not create a hazard to persons or property.

~~Deleted.~~

**M1413.1 General.** Evaporative cooling *equipment* and *appliances* shall comply with UL 1995 or UL/CSA/ANCE 60335-2-40 and shall be installed:

1. In accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
2. On level platforms in accordance with Section M1305.1.3.1.
3. So that openings in exterior walls are flashed in accordance with Section R703.4.
4. So as to protect the potable water supply in accordance with Section P2902.
5. So that air intake opening locations are in accordance with Section R303.5.1.

**M1414.1 (905.1) General.** Fireplace stoves shall be *listed*, *labeled* and installed in accordance with the terms of the listing. Fireplace stoves shall be tested in accordance with UL 737. Fireplace inserts intended for installation in fireplaces shall be *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with the requirements of UL 1482 and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M1414.2 (905.2) Connection to fireplace.** The connection of solid fuel *appliances* to *chimney* flues serving fireplaces shall comply with Sections M1803.4 and M1805.3.1.

**M1414.2 M1414.3 (905.3) Hearth extensions.** Hearth extensions for fireplace stoves shall be installed in accordance with the *listing* of the fireplace stove. The supporting structure for a hearth extension for a fireplace stove shall be at the same level as the supporting structure for the fireplace unit. The hearth extension shall be readily distinguishable from the surrounding floor area. Listed and labeled hearth extensions shall comply with UL 1618.

**M1415.1 General.** *Masonry heaters* shall be constructed in accordance with Section R1002.

**M1416.1 (R1004.1) General.** Factory-built fireplaces shall be *listed* and *labeled* and shall be installed in accordance with the conditions of the *listing*. Factory-built fireplaces shall be tested in accordance with UL 127.

**M1416.2 (R1004.2) Hearth extensions.** Hearth extensions of *approved* factory-built fireplaces shall be installed in accordance with the *listing* of the fireplace. The hearth extension shall be readily distinguishable from the surrounding floor area. *Listed* and *labeled* hearth extensions shall comply with UL 1618.

**M1416.3 (R1004.3) Decorative shrouds.** Decorative shrouds shall not be installed at the termination of chimneys for factory-built fireplaces ~~systems~~ except where the shrouds are *listed* and *labeled* for use with the specific factory-built fireplace system and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M1416.4 (R1004.4) Unvented gas log heaters.** An unvented gas log heater shall not be installed in a factory-built fireplace unless the fireplace system has been specifically tested, *listed* and *labeled* for such use in accordance with UL 127.

**M1416.5 (R1004.5) Gasketed fireplace doors.** A gasketed fireplace door shall not be installed on a factory-built fireplace except where the fireplace system has been specifically tested, *listed* and *labeled* for such use in accordance with UL 127.

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**User notes:**

— **About this chapter:** Chapter 15 is specific to exhaust systems related to clothes dryers, domestic cooking, toilet rooms, bathrooms and whole-house ventilation systems. Included are requirements for exhaust discharge locations, protection of exhaust ducts from damage, exhaust duct construction, duct length limits, and exhaust termination clearances. This chapter contains prohibitions for exhaust recirculation and discharge locations and addresses the design of whole-house ventilation systems required by Chapter 3.

— **Code development reminder:** Code change proposals to this chapter will be considered by the IRC—Plumbing/Mechanical Code Development Committee during the 2021 (Group A) Code Development Cycle. See explanation on page iv.

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The text of this chapter is extracted from the 2018 edition of the *North Carolina Mechanical Code* and has been modified where necessary to conform to the scope of application of the *North Carolina Residential Code for One and Two Family Dwellings*. The section numbers appearing in parentheses after each section number are the section numbers of the corresponding text in the *North Carolina Mechanical Code*.

**M1501.1 (501.3) Outdoor discharge.** The air removed by every mechanical exhaust system shall be discharged to the outdoors in accordance with Section M1504.3. Air shall not be exhausted into an attic, soffit, ridge vent or *crawl space*. ~~Exhaust shall not be directed onto walkways, balconies, decks, breezeways, covered walkways and similar horizontal projections.~~

**Exceptions:**

1. Whole-house *ventilation*-type attic fans that discharge into the **attic** space of *dwelling units* having private *attics* shall be permitted.
2. Where installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and where mechanical or *natural ventilation* is otherwise provided in accordance with Sections M1505 or R303.1, *listed* and *labeled* domestic ductless range hoods shall not be required to discharge to the outdoors.

**M1502.1.1 (504.6) Makeup air.** Where ~~a closet~~ an enclosed space is less than 70 square feet and is designed for the installation of a clothes dryer, an opening having an area of not less than 100 square inches (0.0645 m<sup>2</sup>) shall be provided in the ~~closet~~ enclosure or *makeup air* shall be provided by other *approved* means.

**M1502.3 (504.8.7) Duct termination.** Exhaust ducts shall terminate on the outside of the building. Exhaust duct terminations shall be in accordance with the dryer manufacturer's installation instructions. If the manufacturer's instructions do not specify a termination location, the exhaust duct shall terminate not less than 3 feet (914 mm) in any direction from openings into buildings, including openings in ventilated soffits. ~~The exhaust duct terminations shall not discharge onto walkways, balconies, decks, breezeways, covered walkways and similar horizontal projections.~~ Exhaust duct terminations shall be equipped with a backdraft damper. Screens shall not be installed at the duct termination or *weather cap* outlet. ~~An e~~Exhaust ducts shall terminate not less than 12 inches (305 mm) above finished grade.

**Exception:** Where the duct termination is less than 12 inches (305 mm) above finished grade, an areaway shall be provided with a cross-sectional area not less than 200 square inches (1290 cm<sup>2</sup>). The bottom of the duct termination shall be no less than 12 inches (305 mm) above the areaway bottom.

**M1502.3.1 Exhaust termination outlet and passageway size.** The passageway of dryer exhaust duct terminals shall be undiminished in size and shall provide an open area of not less than 12.5 square inches (8065 mm<sup>2</sup>).

**M1502.4 (504.8) Dryer exhaust ducts.** Dryer exhaust ducts shall conform to the requirements of Sections M1502.4.1 through M1502.4.8.

**M1502.4.1 Material and size.** Exhaust ducts shall have a smooth interior finish and shall be constructed of metal not less than 0.0157 inch (0.3950 mm) in thickness (No. 28 gage) (No. 28 gage for steel, No. 26 gage for aluminum). With the exception of the transition duct, flexible ducts are prohibited. The duct shall be 4 inches (102 mm) nominal in diameter.



**M1502.4.2 Duct installation.** Exhaust ducts shall be supported at intervals not to exceed 124 feet (36581219 mm) and shall be secured in place. The insert end of the duct shall extend into the adjoining duct or fitting in the direction of airflow. Exhaust duct joints shall be sealed in accordance with Section M1601.4.1 and shall be mechanically fastened. ~~Ducts shall not be joined with screws or similar fasteners that protrude more than 1/8 inch (3.2 mm) into the inside of the duct.~~ Ducts shall not be joined with screws or similar fasteners that protrude into the inside of the duct. ~~Ducts shall be sealed in accordance with Section M1601.4.1.~~ Ducts shall be mechanically fastened by one of the following methods:

- a. Nonmetallic mechanical fasteners (tie-straps) shall be listed to UL 181B.
- b. Metal band duct clamps are not required to be listed.

Where dryer exhaust ducts are enclosed in wall or ceiling cavities, such cavities shall allow the installation of the duct without deformation.

**M1502.4.3 (504.8.3) Transition duct.** Transition ducts used to connect the dryer to the exhaust *duct system* shall be a single length that is *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with UL 2158A. Transition ducts shall be not greater than 8 feet (2438 mm) in length. Transition ducts shall not be concealed within construction and must remain entirely within the room where the *appliance* is located.

**M1502.4.4 (504.8.4.3) Dryer exhaust duct power ventilators.** Domestic dryer exhaust duct power ventilators shall conform to UL 705 for use in dryer exhaust duct systems. The dryer exhaust duct power ventilator shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M1502.4.5 Booster fans prohibited.** Domestic booster fans shall not be installed in dryer exhaust systems.

**M1502.4.6 (504.8.4) Duct length.** The maximum allowable exhaust duct length shall be determined by one of the methods specified in Sections M1502.4.6.1 through M1502.4.6.3.

**M1502.4.6.1 Specified length.** The maximum length of the exhaust duct shall be 35 feet (10 668 mm) from the connection to the transition duct from the dryer to the outlet terminal. Where fittings are used, the maximum length of the exhaust duct shall be reduced in accordance with Table M1502.4.6.1. The maximum length of the exhaust duct does not include the transition duct.

**M1502.4.6.2 Manufacturer's instructions.** The size and maximum length of the exhaust duct shall be determined by the dryer manufacturer's installation instructions. The code official shall be provided with a copy of the installation instructions for the make and model of the dryer at the concealment inspection. In the absence of fitting equivalent length calculations from the clothes dryer manufacturer, Table M1502.4.6.1 shall be used.

**M1502.4.6.3 Dryer exhaust duct power ventilator.** The maximum length of the exhaust duct shall be determined in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions for the dryer exhaust duct power ventilator.

**M1502.4.7 Length identification.** Where the exhaust duct equivalent length exceeds 35 feet (10 668 mm), the equivalent length of the exhaust duct shall be identified on a permanent *label* or tag. The *label* or tag shall be located within 6 feet (1829 mm) of the exhaust duct connection.

1. Labels shall be permanently stenciled, laminated, or commercially available plastic or metal tags.
2. Labels shall state, at a minimum (fill in the blank):

Caution: Equivalent length of \_\_\_\_\_ feet including \_\_\_\_\_ 45 deg. elbows and \_\_\_\_\_ 90 deg. elbows. Any installed dryer must be equipped with an exhaust system that meets or exceeds this equivalent length requirement.

3. Labels can be attached to wall or vent receptor.

**M1502.4.8 (504.8.5) Exhaust duct required.** Where space for a clothes dryer is provided, an exhaust *duct system* shall be installed. Where the clothes dryer is not installed at the time of occupancy the exhaust duct shall be capped or plugged in the space in which it originates and identified and marked "future use."

**Exception:** Where a *listed* condensing clothes dryer is installed prior to occupancy of the structure.

**M1502.5 (504.7) Protection required.** Protective shield plates shall be placed where nails or screws from finish or other work are likely to penetrate the clothes dryer exhaust duct. Shield plates shall be placed on the finished face of framing members where there is less than 1 1/4 inches (32 mm) between the duct and the finished face of the framing member. Protective shield plates shall be constructed of steel, shall have a minimum thickness of 0.062-inch (1.6 mm) and shall extend not less than 2 inches (51 mm) above sole plates and below top plates.

**SECTION M1503**  
**DOMESTIC COOKING EXHAUST EQUIPMENT**

**M1503.1 (505.1) General.** Domestic cooking exhaust equipment shall comply with the requirements of this section.

**M1503.2 Domestic cooking exhaust.** Where domestic cooking exhaust equipment is provided, it shall comply with one of the following:

1. The fan for overhead range hoods and downdraft exhaust equipment not integral with the cooking *appliance* shall be *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with UL 507.
2. Overhead range hoods and downdraft exhaust equipment with integral fans shall comply with UL 507.
3. Domestic cooking *appliances* with integral downdraft exhaust equipment shall be *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with ANSI Z21.1 or UL 858.
4. Microwave ovens with integral exhaust for installation over the cooking surface shall be *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with UL 923.

**M1503.2.1 Open-top broiler exhaust.** Domestic open-top broiler units shall be provided with a metal exhaust hood having a thickness of not less than 0.0157 inch (0.3950 mm) (No. 28 gage). Such hoods shall be installed with a clearance of not less than 1/4 inch (6.4 mm) between the hood and the underside of *combustible material* and cabinets. A clearance of not less than 24 inches (610 mm) shall be maintained between the cooking surface and *combustible material* and cabinets. The hood width shall be not less than the width of the broiler unit and shall extend over the entire unit.

**Exception:** Broiler units that incorporate an integral exhaust system, and that are *listed* and *labeled* for use without an exhaust hood, shall not be required to have an exhaust hood.

**M1503.3 Exhaust discharge.** Domestic cooking exhaust equipment shall discharge to the outdoors through a duct. The duct shall have a smooth interior surface, shall be airtight, shall be equipped with a backdraft damper and shall be independent of all other exhaust systems. Ducts serving domestic cooking exhaust equipment shall not terminate in an attic or *crawl space* or areas inside the building.

**Exception:** Where installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and where mechanical or natural *ventilation* is otherwise provided, *listed* and *labeled* ductless range hoods shall not be required to discharge to the outdoors.

**M1503.4 (505.1) Duct material.** Ducts serving domestic cooking exhaust equipment shall be constructed of galvanized steel, stainless steel or copper.

**Exception:** Ducts for domestic kitchen cooking *appliances* equipped with down-draft exhaust systems shall be permitted to be constructed of schedule 40 PVC pipe and fittings provided that the installation complies with all of the following:

1. The duct is installed under a concrete slab poured on grade.
2. The underfloor trench in which the duct is installed is completely backfilled with sand or gravel.
3. The PVC duct extends not more than 1 inch (25 mm) above the indoor concrete floor surface.
4. The PVC duct extends not more than 1 inch (25 mm) above grade *outside of the building*.
5. The PVC ducts are solvent cemented.

**M1503.5 Kitchen exhaust rates.** Where domestic kitchen cooking *appliances* are equipped with ducted range hoods or down-draft exhaust systems, the fans shall be sized in accordance with Section M1505.4.4. ~~Deleted.~~

**M1503.6 (505.2) Makeup air required.** Where one or more gas, liquid or solid fuel burning *appliance* that is neither direct vent nor uses a mechanical draft venting system is located within a dwelling unit's air barrier, each exhaust system capable of exhausting in excess of 400 cubic feet per minute (0.19 m<sup>3</sup>/s) shall be mechanically or passively provided with makeup air at a rate approximately equal to the exhaust air rate. Such makeup air systems shall be equipped with not fewer than one damper complying with Section M1503.6.2.

**Exception:** Makeup air is not required for exhaust systems installed for the exclusive purpose of space cooling and intended to be operated only when windows or other air inlets are open.

Exhaust hood systems capable of exhausting in excess of 400 cubic feet per minute (0.19 m<sup>3</sup>/s) shall be provided with makeup air at a rate approximately equal to the exhaust air rate that is in excess of 400 cubic feet per minute (0.19 m<sup>3</sup>/s). Such makeup air systems shall be equipped with a means of closure and shall be automatically controlled to



~~start and operate simultaneously with the exhaust system. Dampers shall be accessible for inspection, service, repair and replacement without removing permanent construction or any other ducts not connected to the damper being inspected, serviced, repaired or replaced.~~

~~**Exception:** Where all appliances in the house are direct vent, power vent, unvented, or electric, makeup air shall be provided where exhaust fans are capable of exhausting more than 600 cubic feet per minute (0.28 m<sup>3</sup>/s). Exhaust hood systems capable of exhausting more than 600 cubic feet per minute (0.28 m<sup>3</sup>/s) shall be provided with makeup air at a rate approximately equal to the exhaust air rate that is in excess of 600 cubic feet per minute (0.28 m<sup>3</sup>/s).~~

**M1503.6.1 Location.** Kitchen exhaust makeup air shall be discharged into the same room in which the exhaust system is located or into rooms or *duct systems* that communicate through one or more permanent openings with the room in which such exhaust system is located. Such permanent openings shall have a net cross-sectional area not less than the required area of the makeup air supply openings.

**M1503.6.2 Makeup air dampers.** Where makeup air is required by Section M1503.6, makeup air dampers shall comply with this section. Each damper shall be a gravity damper or an electrically operated damper that automatically opens when the exhaust system operates. Dampers shall be located to allow access for inspection, service, repair and replacement without removing permanent construction or any other ducts not connected to the damper being inspected, serviced, repaired or replaced. Gravity or barometric dampers shall not be used in passive makeup air systems except where the dampers are rated to provide the design makeup airflow at a pressure differential of 0.01 in. w.c. (3 Pa) or less.

## SECTION M1504 EXHAUST DUCTS AND EXHAUST OPENINGS

**M1504.1 Duct construction.** Where exhaust duct construction is not specified in this chapter, construction shall comply with Chapter 16.

**M1504.2 Duct length.** The length of exhaust and supply ducts used with ventilating *equipment* shall not exceed the lengths determined in accordance with Table M1504.2. ~~Exhaust duct length shall comply with the manufacturer's design criteria, standard duct airflow design methods, or where the flow rate of the installed ventilating equipment is verified by the installer or approved third party using a flow hood, flow grid or other airflow measuring device.~~

**Exception:** Duct length shall not be limited where the *duct system* complies with the manufacturer's design criteria or where the flow rate of the installed ventilating *equipment* is verified by the installer or *approved* third party using a flow hood, flow grid or other airflow measuring device.

**M1504.3 (501.3.1) Exhaust openings.** Air exhaust openings shall terminate as follows:

1. Not less than 3 feet (914 mm) from property lines.
2. Not less than 3 feet (914 mm) from gravity air intake openings, operable windows and doors.
3. Not less than 10 feet (3048 mm) from mechanical air intake openings except where the exhaust opening is located not less than 3 feet (914 mm) above the air intake opening. Openings shall comply with Sections R303.5.2 and R303.6.

## SECTION M1505 MECHANICAL VENTILATION

**M1505.1 General.** Where local exhaust or whole-house mechanical *ventilation* is ~~provided~~<sup>required</sup>, the *ventilation system* shall be designed in accordance with this section. Refer to Section R303.1 for natural ventilation.

**M1505.2 Recirculation of air.** Exhaust air from bathrooms and toilet rooms shall not be recirculated within a residence or *circulated* to another *dwelling unit* and shall be exhausted directly to the outdoors. Exhaust air from bathrooms, toilet rooms and kitchens shall not discharge into an attic, *crawl space* or other areas inside the building. This section shall not prohibit the installation of ductless range hoods in accordance with the exception to Section M1503.3.

**M1505.3 Exhaust equipment.** Exhaust fans and whole-house mechanical ventilation fans shall be *listed* and *labeled* as providing the minimum required airflow in accordance with ANSI/AMCA 210-ANSI/ASHRAE 51.

**M1505.4 Whole-house mechanical ventilation system.** Whole-house mechanical ventilation systems shall be designed in accordance with Sections M1505.4.1 through M1505.4.4.

**M1505.4.1 System design.** The whole-house ventilation system shall consist of one or more supply or exhaust fans, or a combination of such, and associated ducts and controls. Local exhaust or supply fans are permitted to serve as such a system. Outdoor air ducts connected to the return side of an air handler shall be considered as providing supply ventilation.

**M1505.4.2 System controls.** The whole-house mechanical ventilation system shall be provided with controls that enable manual override. Controls shall include text or a symbol indicating their function.

**M1505.4.3 (403.3.2) Mechanical ventilation rate.** The whole-house mechanical ventilation system shall provide outdoor air at a continuous rate not less than that determined in accordance with Table M1505.4.3(1) or not less than that determined by Equation 15-1.

$$\text{Ventilation rate in cubic feet per minute} = (0.01 \times \text{total square foot area of house}) + [7.5 \times (\text{number of bedrooms} + 1)]$$

**(Equation 15-1)**

**Exceptions:**

1. Ventilation rate credit. The minimum mechanical ventilation rate determined in accordance with Table M1505.4.3(1) or Equation 15-1 shall be reduced by 30 percent, provided that both of the following conditions apply:
  - 1.1. A ducted system supplies ventilation air directly to each bedroom and to one or more of the following rooms:
    - 1.1.1. Living room.
    - 1.1.2. Dining room.
    - 1.1.3. Kitchen.
  - 1.2. The whole-house ventilation system is a balanced ventilation system.
2. Programmed intermittent operation. The whole-house mechanical ventilation system is permitted to operate intermittently where the system has controls that enable operation for not less than 25 percent of each 4-hour segment and the ventilation rate prescribed in Table M1505.4.3(1), by Equation 15-1 or by Exception 1 is multiplied by the factor determined in accordance with Table M1505.4.3(2).

**M1505.4.4 Local exhaust rates.** Local exhaust systems shall be designed to have the capacity to exhaust the minimum airflow rate determined in accordance with Table M1505.4.4.

**TABLE M1505.4.4  
MINIMUM REQUIRED LOCAL EXHAUST RATES FOR  
ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS**

AREA TO BE EXHAUSTED	EXHAUST RATES <sup>a</sup>
Kitchens	100 cfm intermittent or 25 cfm continuous
Bathrooms-Toilet Rooms	Mechanical exhaust capacity of 50 cfm intermittent or 20 cfm continuous

For SI: 1 cubic foot per minute = 0.0004719 m<sup>3</sup>/s,  
1 inch water column = 0.2488 kPa.

- a. The listed exhaust rate for bathrooms-toilet rooms shall equal or exceed the exhaust rate at a minimum static pressure of 0.25 inch water column in accordance with Section M1505.3.

**TABLE M1502.4.6.1  
DRYER EXHAUST DUCT FITTING EQUIVALENT LENGTH**

DRYER EXHAUST DUCT FITTING TYPE	EQUIVALENT LENGTH
4-inch radius mitered 45-degree elbow	2 feet 6 inches

4-inch radius mitered 90-degree elbow	5 feet
6-inch radius smooth 45-degree elbow	1 foot
6-inch radius smooth 90-degree elbow	1 foot 9 inches
8-inch radius smooth 45-degree elbow	1 foot
8-inch radius smooth 90-degree elbow	1 foot 7 inches
10-inch radius smooth 45-degree elbow	9 inches
10-inch radius smooth 90-degree elbow	1 foot 6 inches

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 degree = 0.0175 rad.

**TABLE M1504.2**  
**DUCT LENGTH**

DUCT TYPE	FLEX DUCT									SMOOTH-WALL DUCT						
	50	80	100	125	150	200	250	300	50	80	100	125	150	200	250	300
Fan airflow rating (CFM @ 0.25 inch wc <sup>a</sup> )	Maximum length <sup>c, d, e</sup> (feet)															
Diameter <sup>b</sup> (inches)																
3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	5	X	X	X	X	X	X
4	56	4	X	X	X	X	X	X	114	31	10	X	X	X	X	X
5	NL	81	42	16	2	X	X	X	NL	152	91	51	28	4	X	X
6	NL	NL	158	91	55	18	1	X	NL	NL	NL	168	112	53	25	9
7	NL	NL	NL	NL	161	78	40	19	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	148	88	54
8 and above	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	189	111	69	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	198	133

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

a. Fan airflow rating shall be in accordance with ANSI/AMCA 210-ANSI/ASHRAE 51.

b. For noncircular ducts, calculate the diameter as four times the cross-sectional area divided by the perimeter.

c. This table assumes that elbows are not used. Fifteen feet of allowable duct length shall be deducted for each elbow installed in the duct run.

d. NL = no limit on duct length of this size.

e. X = not allowed. Any length of duct of this size with assumed turns and fittings will exceed the rated pressure drop.

**TABLE M1505.4.3(1)**

**CONTINUOUS WHOLE-HOUSE MECHANICAL VENTILATION SYSTEM AIRFLOW RATE REQUIREMENTS**

DWELLING UNIT FLOOR AREA (square feet)	NUMBER OF BEDROOMS				
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	> 7
	Airflow in CFM				
< 1,500	30	45	60	75	90
1,501-3,000	45	60	75	90	105
3,001-4,500	60	75	90	105	120

4,501–6,000	75	90	105	120	135
6,001–7,500	90	105	120	135	150
> 7,500	105	120	135	150	165

For SI: 1 square foot = 0.0929 m<sup>2</sup>, 1 cubic foot per minute = 0.0004719 m<sup>3</sup>/s.

**TABLE M1505.4.3(2)**

**INTERMITTENT WHOLE-HOUSE MECHANICAL VENTILATION RATE FACTORS<sup>a, b</sup>**

RUN-TIME PERCENTAGE IN EACH 4-HOUR SEGMENT	25%	33%	50%	66%	75%	100%
Factor <sup>a</sup>	4	3	2	1.5	1.3	1.0

a. For ventilation system run-time values between those given, the factors are permitted to be determined by interpolation.

b. Extrapolation beyond the table is prohibited.

### **SECTION M15086 (512)** **SUBSLAB SOIL EXHAUST SYSTEMS**

**M1508.1 (512.1) General.** Where a subslab soil exhaust system is provided, the system shall conform to the requirements of this section.

**M1508.2 (512.2) Materials.** Subslab soil exhaust system duct material shall be air duct material *listed and labeled* to the requirements of UL 181 for Class 0 air ducts, or any of the following piping materials that comply with the *International Plumbing Code* as building sanitary drainage and vent pipe: cast iron; galvanized steel; ~~brass or copper pipe; copper or copper-alloy pipe and tube of a weight not less than that of copper drainage tube, Type DWV; and plastic piping.~~

**M1508.3 (512.3) Grade.** Exhaust system ducts shall not be trapped and shall have a minimum slope of one-eighth unit vertical in 12 units horizontal (1-percent slope).

**M1508.4 (512.4) Termination.** Subslab soil exhaust system ducts shall extend through the roof and terminate not less than 6 inches (152 mm) above the roof and not less than 10 feet (3048 mm) from any operable openings or air intake.

**M1508.5 (512.5) Identification.** Subslab soil exhaust ducts shall be permanently identified within each floor level by means of a tag, stencil or other *approved* marking.

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**User notes:**

**About this chapter:** Chapter 16 addresses duct construction for HVAC and most exhaust systems. This chapter covers duct materials, duct construction, duct installation, duct insulation properties, duct sealing, above-ground and underground ducts, return air-intake locations and air plenums.

**Code development reminder:** Code change proposals to this chapter will be considered by the IRC—Plumbing/Mechanical Code Development Committee during the 2021 (Group A) Code Development Cycle. See explanation on page iv.

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The text of this chapter is extracted from the 2018 edition of the *North Carolina Mechanical Code* and has been modified where necessary to conform to the scope of application of the *North Carolina Residential Code for One and Two Family Dwellings*. The section numbers appearing in parentheses after each section number are the section numbers of the corresponding text in the *North Carolina Mechanical Code*.

## SECTION M1601 DUCT CONSTRUCTION

**M1601.1 (601.1) Duct design.** Duct systems serving heating, cooling and ventilation equipment shall be installed in accordance with the provisions of this section and ACCA Manual D, the appliance manufacturer's installation instructions or other approved methods.

**M1601.1.1 Above-ground duct systems.** Above-ground duct systems shall conform to the following:

1. Equipment connected to duct systems shall be designed to limit discharge air temperature to not greater than 250°F (121°C).
2. Factory-made ducts shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 181 and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
3. Fibrous glass duct construction shall conform to the SMACNA *Fibrous Glass Duct Construction Standards* or NAIMA *Fibrous Glass Duct Construction Standards*.
4. Field-fabricated and shop-fabricated metal and flexible duct constructions shall conform to the SMACNA *HVAC Duct Construction Standards—Metal and Flexible* except as allowed by Table M1601.1.1. Galvanized steel shall conform to ASTM A653. Domestic clothes dryer exhaust ducts shall have a minimum thickness as specified in Section M1502.4.1.
5. The use of gypsum products to construct return air ducts or plenums is permitted, provided that the air temperature does not exceed 125°F (52°C) and exposed surfaces are not subject to condensation.
6. Duct systems shall be constructed of materials having a flame spread index of not greater than 200.
7. Stud wall cavities and the spaces between solid floor joists to be used as air plenums shall comply with the following conditions:
  - 7.1. These cavities or spaces shall not be used as a plenum for supply air.
  - 7.2. These cavities or spaces shall not be part of a required fire-resistance-rated assembly.
  - 7.3. Stud wall cavities shall not convey air from more than one floor level.
  - 7.4. Stud wall cavities and joist-space plenums shall be isolated from adjacent concealed spaces by tight-fitting fireblocking in accordance with Section R302.11. Fireblocking materials used for isolation shall comply with Section R302.11.1.
  - 7.5. Stud wall cavities in the outside walls of building envelope assemblies shall not be utilized as air plenums.
  - 7.6. Building cavities used as plenums shall be sealed.
8. Volume dampers, equipment and other means of supply, return and exhaust air adjustment used in system balancing shall be provided with access.

**M1601.1.2 (603.8) Underground duct systems.** Underground duct systems shall be constructed of approved concrete, clay, metal or plastic. The maximum design temperature for systems utilizing plastic duct and fittings shall be 150°F (66°C). Metal ducts shall be protected from corrosion in an approved manner or shall be completely encased in concrete not less than 2 inches (51 mm) thick. Nonmetallic ducts shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Plastic pipe and fitting materials shall conform to cell classification 12454-B of ASTM D1248 or ASTM D1784 and external loading properties of ASTM D2412. Ducts shall slope to a drainage

point that has access. Ducts shall be sealed, secured and tested prior to encasing the ducts in concrete or direct burial. Duct tightness shall be verified as required by Section N1103.3. Metallic ducts having an *approved* protective coating and nonmetallic ducts shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M1601.2 ~~604.4~~ Vibration isolators (Flexible connections).** Vibration isolators (Flexible connectors) installed between mechanical equipment and metal ducts shall be fabricated from *approved* materials and shall not exceed 10 inches (254 mm) in length.

**M1601.3 ~~604.4~~ Duct insulation materials.** Duct insulation materials shall conform to the following requirements:

1. Duct coverings and linings, including adhesives where used, shall have a flame spread index not higher than 25, and a *smoke-developed index* not over 50 when tested in accordance with ASTM E84 or UL 723, using the specimen preparation and mounting procedures of ASTM E2231.

**Exception:** Spray application of polyurethane foam to the exterior of ducts in *attics* and *crawl spaces* shall be permitted subject to all of the following:

1. The flame spread index is not greater than 25 and the *smoke-developed index* is not greater than 450 at the specified installed thickness.
  2. The foam plastic is protected in accordance with the ignition barrier requirements of Sections R316.5.3 and R316.5.4.
  3. The foam plastic complies with the requirements of Section R316.
2. Duct coverings and linings shall not flame, glow, smolder or smoke when tested in accordance with ASTM C411 at the temperature to which they are exposed in service. The test temperature shall not fall below 250°F (121°C). Coverings and linings shall be *listed* and *labeled*.
  3. External reflective duct insulation shall be legibly printed or identified at intervals not greater than 36 inches (914 mm) with the name of the manufacturer, the product *R*-value at the specified installed thickness and the flame spread and smoke-developed indices. The installed thickness of the external duct insulation shall include the enclosed airspace(s). The product *R*-value for external reflective duct insulation shall be determined in accordance with ASTM C1668.
  4. External duct insulation and factory-insulated flexible ducts shall be legibly printed or identified at intervals not longer than 36 inches (914 mm) with the name of the manufacturer, the thermal resistance *R*-value at the specified installed thickness and the flame spread and smoke-developed *indices* of the composite materials. Spray polyurethane foam manufacturers shall provide the same product information and properties, at the nominal installed thickness, to the customer in writing at the time of foam application. Nonreflective duct insulation product *R*-values shall be based on insulation only, excluding air films, vapor retarders or other duct components, and shall be based on tested *C*-values at 75°F (24°C) mean temperature at the installed thickness, in accordance with recognized industry procedures. The installed thickness of duct insulation used to determine its *R*-value shall be determined as follows:
    - 4.1. For duct board, duct liner and factory-made rigid ducts not normally subjected to compression, the nominal insulation thickness shall be used.
    - 4.2. For ductwrap, the installed thickness shall be assumed to be 75 percent (25-percent compression) of nominal thickness.
    - 4.3. For factory-made flexible air ducts, The installed thickness shall be determined by dividing the difference between the actual outside diameter and nominal inside diameter by two.
    - 4.4. For spray polyurethane foam, the aged *R*-value per inch measured in accordance with recognized industry standards shall be provided to the customer in writing at the time of foam application. In addition, the total *R*-value for the nominal application thickness shall be provided.

**M1601.4.1 Joints, seams and connections.** Longitudinal and transverse joints, seams and connections in metallic and nonmetallic ducts shall be constructed as specified in SMACNA *HVAC Duct Construction Standards—Metal and Flexible* and NAIMA *Fibrous Glass Duct Construction Standards*. Joints, longitudinal and transverse seams, and connections in ductwork shall be securely fastened and sealed with welds, gaskets, mastics (adhesives), mastic-plus-embedded-fabric systems, liquid sealants or tapes. Tapes and mastics used to seal fibrous glass ductwork shall be *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with UL 181A and shall be marked “181A-P” for pressure-sensitive tape, “181 A-M” for mastic or “181 A-H” for heat-sensitive tape.

Tapes and mastics used to seal metallic and flexible air ducts and flexible air connectors shall comply with UL 181B and shall be marked “181 B-FX” for pressure-sensitive tape or “181 BM” for mastic. Duct connections to flanges of air distribution system *equipment* shall be sealed and mechanically fastened. Mechanical fasteners for use with flexible nonmetallic air ducts shall comply with UL 181B and shall be marked 181B-C. Crimp joints for round metallic ducts shall have a contact lap of not less than 1 inch (25 mm) and shall be mechanically fastened by means of not less than three sheet-metal screws or rivets equally spaced around the joint. Unlisted duct tape is not permitted as a sealant on any metal ducts.

Closure systems used to seal all ductwork shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturers’ instructions.

**Exceptions:**

1. Spray polyurethane foam shall be permitted to be applied without additional joint seals.
2. Where a duct connection is made that is partially **without access**, three screws or rivets shall be equally spaced on the exposed portion of the joint so as to prevent a hinge effect.
3. ~~For ducts having a static pressure classification of less than 2 inches of water column (500 Pa), additional closure systems shall not be required for continuously welded joints and seams and locking type joints and seams. This exception shall not apply to snap lock and button lock type joints and seams that are located outside of conditioned spaces. Deleted.~~
- ~~4. Continuously welded joints and seam in ducts.~~
- ~~5. Ducts exposed within the conditioned space that the ducts serve shall not be required to be sealed.~~

**M1601.4.2 Duct lap.** Crimp joints for round and oval metal ducts shall be lapped not less than 1 inch (25 mm) **and the male end of the duct shall extend into the adjoining duct in the direction of airflow.**

**M1601.4.4 Support.** Factory-made ducts *listed* in accordance with UL 181 shall be supported in accordance with the manufacturer’s installation instructions. Field- and shop-fabricated fibrous glass ducts shall be supported in accordance with the SMACNA *Fibrous Glass Duct Construction Standards* or the NAIMA *Fibrous Glass Duct Construction Standards*. Field- and shop-fabricated metal and flexible ducts shall be supported in accordance with the SMACNA *HVAC Duct Construction Standards—Metal and Flexible* or in accordance with Section M1601.4.4.1.

All *appliances and equipment* shall be supported independently of the duct system except when the duct is used as a support base. When used as a support base, the duct shall be of sufficient strength and designed to support the weight of the unit. Listed bases shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s installation instructions.

**M1601.4.4.1 ~~(603.10.1)~~ Metal duct minimal support.** Metal ducts shall be securely supported. Where hung or suspended, metal straps a minimum of 1 inch (25 mm) in width and equivalent to or heavier gage than the duct being supported shall be used. Straps, when used, shall be at maximum 64-inch (1626 mm) intervals and shall be securely attached to the building structure. Straps shall be attached to the duct at a minimum of two points with screws or rivets.

**M1601.4.5 Fireblocking.** Duct installations shall be fireblocked in accordance with Section **R302.11**.

**M1601.4.6 ~~(604.1)~~ Duct insulation.** Duct insulation shall be installed in accordance with the following requirements:

1. A vapor retarder having **a permeance of not greater than 0.05 perm** [2.87 ng/(s × m<sup>2</sup> × Pa)] in accordance with ASTM E96, or aluminum foil with **a thickness of not less than 2 mils (0.05 mm)**, shall be installed on the exterior of insulation on cooling supply ducts that pass through unconditioned spaces conducive to condensation except where the insulation is spray polyurethane foam with **a water vapor permeance of not greater than 3 perms** per inch [1722 ng/(s × m<sup>2</sup> × Pa)] at the installed thickness.
2. **Outdoor duct systems** shall be protected against the elements.
3. Duct coverings shall not penetrate a fireblocked wall or floor.

Replacement or addition of cooling equipment to existing ductwork located in an attic shall require the ductwork to be insulated. Replacement of heating or the addition of cooling equipment in a crawl space or conditioned basements shall not require the existing ductwork to be insulated. Unconditioned basement ductwork shall require insulation with the addition of cooling equipment.



**M1601.4.8 (603.14) Duct separation.** Ducts shall be installed with not less than 4 inches (102 mm) separation from earth except where they meet the requirements of Section M1601.1.2.

**M1601.4.10 Flood hazard areas.** In flood hazard areas as established by Table R301.2, *duct systems* shall be located or installed in accordance with Section R322.1.6.

**M1601.4.11 Condensation.** Provisions shall be made to prevent the formation of condensation on the exterior of any newly-installed duct. Newly-installed ducts insulated in accordance with Chapter 11 shall be deemed to meet the intent of this section.

**M1601.5.1 General.** The space shall be cleaned of loose *combustible materials* and scrap, and shall be tightly enclosed. The ground surface of the space shall be covered with a moisture barrier having a thickness of not less than 4 mils (0.1 mm). Plumbing waste cleanouts shall not be located within the space.

**Exception:** Plumbing waste cleanouts shall be permitted to be located in unvented *crawl spaces* that receive *conditioned air* in accordance with Section R408.39.

**M1602.2 Return air openings.** Return air openings for heating, *ventilation* and air-conditioning systems shall comply with all of the following:

1. Openings shall not be located less than 10 feet (3048 mm) measured in any direction from an open combustion chamber, *including factory-built and masonry fireplaces* or draft hood of another *appliance* located in the same room or space.
2. The amount of return air taken from any room or space shall be not greater than the flow rate of supply air delivered to such room or space.
3. Return and transfer openings shall be sized in accordance with the *appliance* or *equipment* manufacturers installation instructions, Manual D or the design of the *registered design professional*.
4. Return air shall not be taken from a closet, bathroom, toilet room, kitchen, garage, mechanical room, boiler room, furnace room, *crawl space* or unconditioned attic.

**Exceptions:**

1. Taking return air from a kitchen is not prohibited where such return air openings serve the kitchen only, and are located not less than 10 feet (3048 mm) from the cooking *appliances*.
2. Dedicated forced-air systems serving only the garage shall not be prohibited from obtaining return air from the garage.
- ~~3. Deleted~~
5. For other than dedicated HVAC systems, return air shall not be taken from indoor swimming pool enclosures and associated deck areas except where the air in such spaces is dehumidified.
- ~~6. Taking return air from an unconditioned *crawl space* shall not be accomplished through a direct connection to the return side of a forced-air furnace. Transfer openings in the *crawl space* enclosure shall not be prohibited.~~
- ~~7. Return air from one *dwelling unit* shall not be discharged into another *dwelling unit*.~~

**M1602.3 (603.18) Return-air intake (nonengineered systems).** If only one central return-air grille is installed, it shall be of a size sufficient to return a volume of air compatible with the CFM requirements and the temperature rise limitations specified by the equipment manufacturer. The face velocity of return air grilles shall not exceed 450 feet per minute (fpm) (2.3 m/s). At least one separate return shall be installed on each level of a multi-level structure. For split-level and split-foyer structures, one return may serve more than one level if located within the split area and the total area of the levels does not exceed 1,600 square feet (148.6 m<sup>2</sup>). Return-air grilles shall not be located in bathrooms. The return air from one residential living unit shall not be mixed with the return air from other living units.

In dwellings with 1,600 square feet (148.6m<sup>2</sup>) or less of conditioned area, a central return is permitted. When the dwelling contains more than 1,600 square feet (148.6m<sup>2</sup>) of conditioned area, additional returns shall be provided. Each return shall serve not more than 1,600 square feet (148.6 m<sup>2</sup>) of area and shall be located in the area it serves.



Return air may travel through the living space to the return-air intake if there are no restrictions, such as solid doors, to the air movement. Undercut doors are allowed. When panned joists are used for return air, the structural integrity shall be maintained. Air capacity for joists 16 inches (406 mm) on center shall be a maximum of 375 cubic feet per minute (0.177 m<sup>3</sup>/s) for 8-inch (203 mm) joists and 525 cubic feet per minute (0.248 m<sup>3</sup>/s) for 10-inch (254 mm) joists. Wiring located in spaces used for return-air ducts shall comply with the *North Carolina Electrical Code*.

**TABLE M1601.1.1**  
**DUCT CONSTRUCTION MINIMUM SHEET METAL THICKNESS FOR SINGLE DWELLING UNITS<sup>a</sup>**

ROUND DUCT DIAMETER (inches)	STATIC PRESSURE			
	1/2-inch water gauge		1-inch water gauge	
	Thickness (inches)		Thickness (inches)	
	Galvanized	Aluminum	Galvanized	Aluminum
< 12	0.013 (30 ga.)	0.018 (24 ga.)	0.013 (30 ga.)	0.018 (24 ga.)
12 to 14	0.013 (30 ga.)	0.018 (24 ga.)	0.016 (28 ga.)	0.023 (22 ga.)
15 to 17	0.016 (28 ga.)	0.023 (22 ga.)	0.019 (26 ga.)	0.027 (20 ga.)
18	0.016 (28 ga.)	0.023 (22 ga.)	0.024 (24 ga.)	0.034 (18 ga.)
19 to 20	0.019 (26 ga.)	0.027 (20 ga.)	0.024 (24 ga.)	0.034 (18 ga.)
RECTANGULAR DUCT DIMENSION (inches)	STATIC PRESSURE			
	1/2-inch water gauge		1-inch water gauge	
	Thickness (inches)		Thickness (inches)	
	Galvanized	Aluminum	Galvanized	Aluminum
≤ 8	0.013 (30 ga.)	0.018 (24 ga.)	0.013 (30 ga.)	0.018 (24 ga.)
9 to 10	0.013 (30 ga.)	0.018 (24 ga.)	0.016 (28 ga.)	0.023 (22 ga.)
11 to 12	0.016 (28 ga.)	0.023 (22 ga.)	0.019 (26 ga.)	0.027 (20 ga.)
13 to 16	0.019 (26 ga.)	0.027 (20 ga.)	0.019 (26 ga.)	0.027 (20 ga.)
17 to 18	0.019 (26 ga.)	0.027 (20 ga.)	0.024 (24 ga.)	0.034 (18 ga.)
19 to 20	0.024 (24 ga.)	0.034 (18 ga.)	0.024 (24 ga.)	0.034 (18 ga.)

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 inch water gage = 249 Pa.

- a. Ductwork that exceeds 20 inches by dimension or exceeds a pressure of 1 inch water gauge shall be constructed in accordance with SMACNA *HVAC Duct Construction Standards—Metal and Flexible*.

**TABLE 603.4  
DUCT CONSTRUCTION MINIMUM SHEET METAL THICKNESS FOR SINGLE DWELLING UNITS**

DUCT SIZE	MINIMUM THICKNESS (inches)	EQUIVALENT GAGE (GALVANIZED)	ALUMINUM MINIMUM THICKNESS (inches) [gage]
<u>Round ducts and enclosed rectangular ducts</u>			
<u>14 inches or less</u>	<u>0.013</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>0.0159 [26 ga]</u>
<u>Over 14 inches</u>	<u>0.016</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>0.0201 [24 ga]</u>
<u>Exposed rectangular ducts</u>			
<u>14 inches or less</u>	<u>0.016</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>0.0201 [24 ga]</u>
<u>Over 14 inches</u>	<u>0.019</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>0.0253 [22 ga]</u>

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

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**User notes:**

**About this chapter:** Chapter 17 applies only to oil-fired and solid fuel-fired appliances. Chapter 24 applies to combustion air for gas-fired appliances.

**Code development reminder:** Code change proposals to this chapter will be considered by the IRC—Plumbing/Mechanical Code Development Committee during the 2021 (Group A) Code Development Cycle. See explanation on page vi.

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The text of this chapter is extracted from the 2018 edition of the *North Carolina Mechanical Code* and has been modified where necessary to conform to the scope of application of the *North Carolina Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings*. The section numbers appearing in parentheses after each section number are the section numbers of the corresponding text in the *North Carolina Mechanical Code*.

**M1701.3 (701.2) Dampered openings.** Where combustion air openings are provided with volume dampers, the dampers shall be interlocked with the firing cycle of the *appliances* served, so as to prevent operation of any *appliance* that draws combustion air from the room or space when any of the dampers are closed. Manual dampers shall not be installed in combustion air ducts.

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**User notes:**

**About this chapter:** Chapter 18 addresses chimneys and vents that serve oil- and solid fuel-fired appliances, including wood pellet appliances. Gas-fired appliances are vented in accordance with Chapter 24. Chapter 10 addresses chimneys for fireplaces and masonry and factory-built chimneys in general. Note that chimneys and vents are distinct.

**Code development reminder:** Code change proposals to this chapter will be considered by the IRC—Plumbing/Mechanical Code Development Committee during the 2021 (Group A) Code Development Cycle. See explanation on page iv.

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The text of this chapter is extracted from the 2018 edition of the *North Carolina Mechanical Code* and has been modified where necessary to conform to the scope of application of the *North Carolina Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings*. The section numbers appearing in parentheses after each section number are the section numbers of the corresponding text in the *North Carolina Mechanical Code*.

**M1801.1 (801.1) Venting required.** Fuel-burning *appliances* shall be vented to the outdoors in accordance with their *listing* and *label* and manufacturer's installation instructions except *appliances* listed and *labeled* for unvented use. Venting systems shall consist of *approved* chimneys or vents, or venting assemblies that are integral parts of *labeled appliances*. Gas-fired *appliances* shall be vented in accordance with Chapter 24.

**M1801.3.3 (801.13) Cleanout.** Masonry chimneys shall be provided with a cleanout opening complying with Section R1003.17.

**M1801.3.4 (801.18.4) Clearances.** Chimneys and vents shall have airspace clearance to combustibles in accordance with this code and the chimney or vent manufacturer's installation instructions.

**Exception:** Masonry chimneys equipped with a chimney lining system tested and *listed* for installation in chimneys in contact with combustibles in accordance with UL 1777, and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, shall not be required to have a clearance between *combustible materials* and exterior surfaces of the *masonry chimney*. Noncombustible firestopping shall be provided in accordance with this code.

**M1801.4 (801.17) Space around lining.** The space surrounding a flue lining system or other vent installed within a *masonry chimney* shall not be used to vent any other *appliance*. This shall not prevent the installation of a separate flue lining in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions and this code.

**M1801.5 Mechanical draft systems.** A *mechanical draft system* shall be used only with *appliances listed and labeled* for such use. Provisions shall be made to prevent the flow of fuel to the *equipment* when the draft system is not operating. Forced draft systems and portions of induced draft systems under positive pressure during operation shall be designed and installed to prevent leakage of flue gases into a building.

**M1801.11 Multiple-appliance venting systems.** Two or more *listed and labeled appliances* connected to a common natural draft venting system shall comply with the following requirements:

1. *Appliances* that are connected to common venting systems shall be located on the same floor of the *dwelling*.

**Exception:** Engineered systems as provided for in Section G2427.

2. Inlets to common venting systems shall be offset such that no portion of an inlet is opposite another inlet.
3. *Connectors* serving *appliances* operating under a natural draft shall not be connected to any portion of a *mechanical draft system* operating under positive pressure.

**M1802.4 Blocked vent switch.** Oil-fired *appliances* shall be equipped with a device that will stop burner operation in the event that the venting system is obstructed. Such device shall have a manual reset and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M1803.2 (803.9) Connectors for oil and solid fuel-burning appliances.** Connectors for oil and solid fuel-burning *appliances* shall be constructed of *factory-built chimney* material, Type L vent material or single-wall metal pipe

having resistance to corrosion and heat and thickness not less than that of galvanized steel as specified in Table M1803.2.

TABLE M1803.2 **803.9(4)**

**THICKNESS FOR SINGLE-WALL METAL PIPE CONNECTORS**

DIAMETER OF CONNECTOR (inches)	GALVANIZED SHEET METAL GAGE NUMBER	MINIMUM THICKNESS (inch)
Less than 6	26	0.019
6 to 10	24	0.024
Over 10 through 16	22	0.029

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

**M1803.3 803.10.5) Installation.** Vent and chimney connectors shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and within the space where the *appliance* is located. *Appliances* shall be located as close as practical to the vent or chimney. Connectors shall be as short and straight as possible and installed with a slope of not less than 1/4 inch (6 mm) rise per foot of run. Connectors shall be securely supported and joints shall be fastened with sheet metal screws or rivets. Devices that obstruct the flow of flue gases shall not be installed in a connector unless *listed* and *labeled* or *approved* for such **installation**.

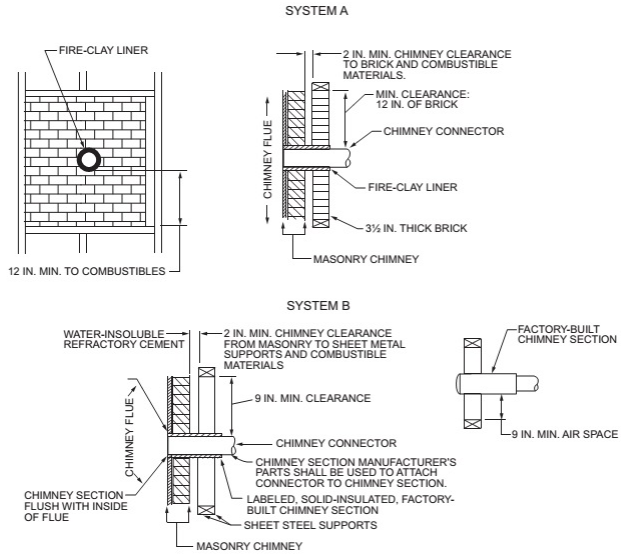
**M1803.3.1 803.10.4) Floor, ceiling and wall penetrations.** A chimney connector or vent connector shall not pass through any floor or ceiling. A chimney connector or vent connector shall not pass through a wall or partition unless the connector is *listed* and *labeled* for wall pass-through, or is routed through a device *listed* and *labeled* for wall pass-through and is installed in accordance with the conditions of its *listing* and *label*. Connectors for oil-fired *appliances listed* and *labeled* for Type L vents, passing through walls or partitions shall be in accordance with the following:

1. Type L vent material for oil *appliances* shall be installed with not less than *listed* and *labeled* clearances to *combustible material*.
2. Single-wall metal pipe shall be *guarded* by a ventilated metal thimble not less than 4 inches (102 mm) larger in diameter than the vent connector. **Not less than** 6 inches (152 mm) of clearance shall be maintained between the thimble and combustibles.

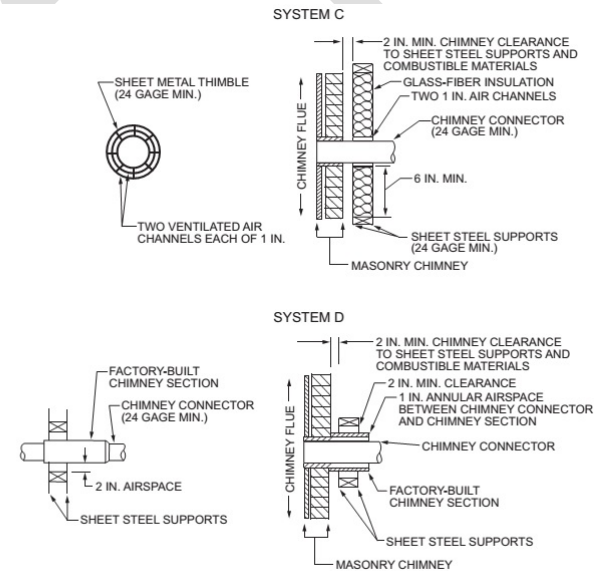
**M1803.3.4 803.10.6) Clearance.** Connectors shall be installed with clearance to combustibles as set forth in Table M1803.3.4 or Table M1803.3.5. Reduced clearances to *combustible materials* shall be in accordance with Table M1306.2 and Figure M1306.1.

**M1803.3.5 Connector pass-through.** *Chimney* connectors shall not pass through any floor or ceiling, nor through a fire-resistance-rated wall assembly. *Chimney* connectors for domestic-type *appliances* shall not pass through walls or partitions constructed of combustible material to reach a masonry *chimney* except where one of the following applies:

1. The connector is *labeled* for wall pass-through and is installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
2. The connector is put through a device *labeled* for wall pass-through.
3. The connector has a diameter not larger than 10 inches (254 mm) and is installed in accordance with one of the methods in Table M1803.3.5. Concealed metal parts of the pass-through system in contact with flue gases shall be of stainless steel or equivalent material that resists corrosion, softening or cracking up to 1,800°F (980°C).



For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.



For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

**FIGURE M1803.3.5**  
**CHIMNEY CONNECTOR SYSTEMS**

**TABLE M1803.3.5 (803.40.4)**  
**CHIMNEY CONNECTOR SYSTEMS AND CLEARANCES TO COMBUSTIBLE WALL MATERIALS FOR DOMESTIC HEATING APPLIANCES<sup>a, b, c, d</sup>**

<p><b>System A</b> (12-inch clearance)</p>	<p>A 3.5-inch-thick brick wall shall be framed into the combustible wall. An 0.625-inch-thick fire-clay liner (ASTM C315 or equivalent)<sup>e</sup> shall be firmly cemented in the center of the brick wall maintaining a 12-inch clearance to combustibles. The clay liner shall run from the outer surface of the bricks to the inner surface of the chimney liner.</p>
<p><b>System B</b> (9-inch clearance)</p>	<p>A labeled solid-insulated factory-built chimney section (1-inch insulation) the same inside diameter as the connector shall be utilized. Sheet steel supports cut to maintain a 9-inch clearance to combustibles shall be fastened to the wall surface and to the chimney section. Fasteners shall not penetrate the chimney flue liner. The chimney length shall be flush with the masonry chimney liner and sealed to the masonry with water-insoluble</p>

	<u>refractory cement. Chimney manufacturers' parts shall be utilized to securely fasten the chimney connector to the chimney section.</u>
<b>System C</b> (6-inch clearance)	<u>A steel ventilated thimble having a minimum thickness of 0.0236 inch (No. 24 gage) having two 1-inch air channels shall be installed with a steel chimney connector. Steel supports shall be cut to maintain a 6-inch clearance between the thimble and combustibles. The chimney connector and steel supports shall have a minimum thickness of 0.0236 inch (No. 24 gage). One side of the support shall be fastened to the wall on all sides. Glass-fiber insulation shall fill the 6-inch space between the thimble and the supports.</u>
<b>System D</b> (2-inch clearance)	<u>A labeled solid-insulated factory-built chimney section (1-inch insulation) with a diameter 2 inches larger than the chimney connector shall be installed with a steel chimney connector having a minimum thickness of 0.0236 inch (No. 24 gage). Sheet steel supports shall be positioned to maintain a 2-inch clearance to combustibles and to hold the chimney connector to ensure that a 1-inch airspace surrounds the chimney connector through the chimney section. The steel support shall be fastened to the wall on all sides and the chimney section shall be fastened to the supports. Fasteners shall not penetrate the liner of the chimney section.</u>

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1.0 Btu • in/ft<sup>2</sup> • h • °F = 0.144 W/m<sup>2</sup> • K.

- a. Insulation material that is part of the wall pass-through system shall be noncombustible and shall have a thermal conductivity of 1.0 Btu • in/ft<sup>2</sup> • h • °F or less.
- b. All clearances and thicknesses are minimums.
- c. Materials utilized to seal penetrations for the connector shall be noncombustible.
- d. Connectors for all systems except System B shall extend through the wall pass-through system to the inner face of the flue liner.
- e. ASTM C315.

**M1803.3.56 Access.** The entire length of a connector shall allow access for inspection, cleaning and replacement.

**M1803.4.2 Connection to factory-built fireplace flue.** A different *appliance* shall not be connected to a flue serving a factory-built fireplace unless the *appliance* is specifically *listed* for such an installation. The connection shall be made in compliance with the *appliance* manufacturer's instructions.

**M1803.4.3 Connection to masonry fireplace flue.** A connector shall extend from the *appliance* to the flue serving a masonry fireplace to convey the flue gases directly into the flue. The connector shall be provided with access or shall be removable for inspection and cleaning of both the connector and the flue. *Listed* direct-connection devices shall be installed in accordance with their *listing*.

**TABLE M1804.1**  
**VENT SELECTION CHART**

VENT TYPES	APPLIANCE TYPES
Type L oil vents	Oil-burning appliances <i>listed</i> and <i>labeled</i> for venting with Type L vents
Pellet vents	Pellet fuel-burning appliances <i>listed</i> and <i>labeled</i> for use with pellet vents

**M1804.1.1 (801.20) Plastic vent joints.** Plastic pipe and fittings used to vent appliances shall be installed in accordance with the *appliance* manufacturer's installation instructions. Solvent cement joints between ABS pipe and fittings shall be cleaned. Solvent cement joints between CPVC pipe and fittings or PVC pipe and fittings shall be primed. The primer shall be a contrasting color, or an ultraviolet primer may be used.

**M1804.2.6 Mechanical draft systems.** *Mechanical draft systems* shall comply with UL 378 and shall be installed in accordance with their *listing*, the manufacturer's instructions and, except for direct-vent *appliances*, the following requirements: Sections M1804.2.6.1 through M1804.2.6.3.

1. The vent terminal shall be located not less than 3 feet (914 mm) above a forced air inlet located within 10 feet (3048 mm).
2. The vent terminal shall be located not less than 4 feet (1219 mm) below, 4 feet (1219 mm) horizontally from, or 1 foot (305 mm) above any door, window or gravity air inlet into a *dwelling*.
3. The vent termination point shall be located not closer than 3 feet (914 mm) to an interior corner formed by two walls perpendicular to each other.
4. The bottom of the vent terminal shall be located not less than 12 inches (305 mm) above finished ground level.
5. The vent termination shall not be mounted directly above or within 3 feet (914 mm) horizontally of an oil tank vent or gas meter.
6. Power exhauster terminations shall be located not less than 10 feet (3048 mm) from *lot lines* and adjacent buildings.
7. The discharge shall be directed away from the building.

**M1804.2.6.1 (804.3.4) Horizontal terminations.** Vertical terminations shall comply with the following requirements:

1. Where located adjacent to walkways, the termination of mechanical draft systems shall be not less than 7 feet (2134 mm) above the level of the walkway.
2. Vents shall terminate not less than 3 feet (914 mm) above any forced air inlet located within 10 feet (3048 mm).
3. The vent system shall terminate not less than 4 feet (1219 mm) below, 4 feet (1219 mm) horizontally from or 1 foot (305 mm) above any door, window or gravity air inlet into the building.
4. The vent termination point shall not be located closer than 3 feet (914 mm) to an interior corner formed by two walls perpendicular to each other.
5. The vent termination shall not be mounted directly above or within 3 feet (914 mm) horizontally from an oil tank vent or gas meter.
6. The bottom of the vent termination shall be located not less than 12 inches (305 mm) above finished grade.

**M1804.2.6.2 (804.3.5) Vertical terminations.** Vertical terminations shall comply with the following requirements:

1. Where located adjacent to walkways, the termination of mechanical draft systems shall be not less than 7 feet (2134 mm) above the level of the walkway.
2. Vents shall terminate not less than 3 feet (914 mm) above any forced air inlet located within 10 feet (3048 mm) horizontally.
3. Where the vent termination is located below an adjacent roof structure, the termination point shall be located not less than 3 feet (914 mm) from such structure.
4. The vent shall terminate not less than 4 feet (1219 mm) below, 4 feet (1219 mm) horizontally from or 1 foot (305 mm) above any door, window or gravity air inlet for the building.
5. A vent cap shall be installed to prevent rain from entering the vent system.
6. The vent termination shall be located not less than 3 feet (914 mm) horizontally from any portion of the roof structure.

**M1804.2.6.3 (804.3.8) Mechanical draft systems for manually fired appliances and fireplaces.** A mechanical draft system shall be permitted to be used with manually fired appliances and fireplaces where such system complies with all of the following requirements:

1. The mechanical draft device shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 378, and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
2. A device shall be installed that produces visible and audible warning upon failure of the mechanical draft device or loss of electrical power, at any time that the mechanical draft device is



turned on. This device shall be equipped with a battery backup if it receives power from the building wiring.

3. A smoke detector shall be installed in the room with the appliance or fireplace. This device shall be equipped with a battery backup if it receives power from the building wiring.

**M1804.4 Door swing.** Appliance and *equipment* vent terminals shall be located such that doors cannot swing within 12 inches (305 mm) horizontally of the vent terminals. Door stops or closers shall not be installed to obtain this clearance.

**M1805.2 ~~(803.10.3)~~ Masonry chimney connection.** A chimney connector shall enter a *masonry chimney* not less than 6 inches (152 mm) above the bottom of the chimney. Where it is not possible to locate the connector entry **not less than** 6 inches (152 mm) above the bottom of the chimney flue, a cleanout shall be provided by installing a capped tee in the connector next to the chimney. A connector entering a *masonry chimney* shall extend through, but not beyond, the wall and shall be flush with the inner face of the liner. Connectors, or thimbles where used, shall be firmly cemented into the masonry.

**M1805.4 ~~(805.6)~~ Decorative shrouds.** Decorative shrouds shall not be installed at the termination of factory-built *chimneys* except where such shrouds are *listed and labeled* for use with the specific factory-built *chimney* system and are installed in accordance with **the** manufacturer's installation instructions.

**M1805.5 Insulation shield.** Where factory-built *chimneys* pass through insulated assemblies, an insulation shield constructed of steel having a thickness of not less than 0.0187 inch (0.4712 mm) (No. 26 gage) shall be installed to provide *clearance* between the *chimney* and the insulation material. The *clearance* shall be not less than the *clearance* to combustibles specified by the *chimney* manufacturer's installation instructions. Where *chimneys* pass through attic space, the shield shall terminate not less than 2 inches (51 mm) above the insulation materials and shall be secured in place to prevent displacement. Insulation shields provided as part of a *listed chimney* system shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

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**User notes:**

— **About this chapter:** Chapter 19 is specific to appliances and systems that are not related to HVAC, including cooking appliances, sauna heaters, fuel cells and hydrogen systems. Chapter 24 also applies to cooking appliances and sauna heaters.

— **Code development reminder:** Code change proposals to this chapter will be considered by the IRC—Plumbing/Mechanical Code Development Committee during the 2021 (Group A) Code Development Cycle. See explanation on page iv.

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The text of this chapter is extracted from the 2018 edition of the *North Carolina Mechanical Code* and has been modified where necessary to conform to the scope of application of the *North Carolina Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings*. The section numbers appearing in parentheses after each section number are the section numbers of the corresponding text in the *North Carolina Mechanical Code*.

**M1901.1 Clearances.** Freestanding or built-in ranges shall have a vertical clearance above the cooking top of not less than 30 inches (762 mm) to unprotected *combustible material*. Reduced clearances are permitted in accordance with the *listing* and *labeling* of the range hoods or *ovens with integral exhaust*.

**M1901.2 (917.2) Cooking appliances.** Cooking *appliances* shall be *listed* and *labeled* for household use and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The installation shall not interfere with *combustion air* or access for operation and servicing. Electric cooking *appliances* shall comply with UL 858 or UL 1026. Solid-fuel-fired fireplace stoves shall comply with UL 737. *Microwave ovens shall comply with UL 923.*

**M1901.3 (917.3) Installation of microwave oven over a cooking appliance.** The installation of a *listed and labeled* cooking appliance or microwave oven over a *listed and labeled* cooking appliance shall conform to the terms of the upper appliance's *listing* and *label* and the manufacturer's installation instructions.

**M1902.1 (914.1) Locations and protection.** Sauna heaters shall be protected from accidental contact by persons with a guard of material having a low thermal conductivity, such as wood. The guard shall not have a substantial effect on the transfer of heat from the heater to the room.

**M1902.2 (914.2) Installation.** Sauna heaters shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Sauna heaters shall comply with UL 875.

**M1902.5 (914.5) Sauna room.** A ventilation opening into the sauna room shall be provided as required by the manufacturer.

**M1903.1 (924.1) General.** Stationary fuel cell power plants having a power output not exceeding 1,000 kW, shall comply with ANSI/CSA America FC 1 and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and NFPA 853.

**M1904.1 (926.1) Installation.** Gaseous hydrogen systems shall be installed in accordance with the applicable requirements of Sections M1307.4 and M1903.1, the *International Building Code*, the *International Fire Code* and the *International Fuel Gas Code*.

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**User notes:**

**About this chapter:** Chapter 20 is specific to boilers and water heaters. The provisions of this chapter apply to appliances generally without regard to the energy source. Gas-fired boilers and water heaters are also addressed in Chapter 24; therefore, Chapters 20 and 24 both apply to such appliances.

**Code development reminder:** Code change proposals to this chapter will be considered by the IRC—Plumbing/Mechanical Code Development Committee during the 2021 (Group A) Code Development Cycle. See explanation on page vi.

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The text of this chapter is extracted from the 2018 edition of the *North Carolina Mechanical Code* and has been modified where necessary to conform to the scope of application of the *North Carolina Residential Code for One and Two Family Dwellings*. The section numbers appearing in parentheses after each section number are the section numbers of the corresponding text in the *North Carolina Mechanical Code*.

**M2001.1.1 Standards.** Packaged oil-fired boilers shall be *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with UL 726. Packaged electric boilers shall be *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with UL 834. Solid fuel-fired boilers shall be *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with UL 2523. Boilers shall be designed, constructed and certified in accordance with the *ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code*, Section I or IV. Controls and safety devices for boilers with fuel input ratings of 12,500,000 Btu/hr (3663 kW) or less shall meet the requirements of ASME CSD-1. Gas-fired boilers shall conform to the requirements listed in Chapter 24.

**M2002.1 (1006.4) Safety controls.** Electrical and mechanical operating and safety controls for boilers shall be *listed* and *labeled*.

**M2002.2 (1010.1) Hot water boiler gauges.** Every hot water boiler shall have a pressure gauge and a temperature gauge, or combination pressure and temperature gauge. The gauges shall indicate the temperature and pressure within the normal range of the system's operation.

**M2002.3 (1010.2) Steam boiler gauges.** Every steam boiler shall have a water-gauge glass and a pressure gauge. The pressure gauge shall indicate the pressure within the normal range of the system's operation. The gauge glass shall be installed so that the midpoint is at the normal water level.

**M2002.4 Pressure-relief valve.** Boilers shall be equipped with pressure-relief valves with minimum rated capacities for the equipment served. Pressure-relief valves shall be set at the maximum rating of the boiler. Discharge shall be piped to drains by gravity to within 18 inches (457 mm) of the floor or to an open receptor.

**M2002.5 (1007.1) Boiler low-water cutoff.** Steam and hot water boilers shall be protected with a low-water cutoff control.

**Exception:** A low-water cutoff is not required for coil-type and water-tube-type boilers that require forced circulation of water through the boiler and that are protected with a flow-sensing control.

**M2002.6 Operation.** Low-water cutoff controls and flow-sensing controls required by Section M2002.5 shall automatically stop the combustion operation of the *appliance* when the water level drops below the lowest safe water level as established by the manufacturer or when the water circulation flow is less than that required for safe operation of the *appliance*, respectively.

**M2003.1.1 Pressurized expansion tanks.** Pressurized expansion tanks shall be consistent with the volume and capacity of the system. Tanks shall be capable of withstanding a hydrostatic test pressure of two and one-half times the allowable working pressure of the system.

**TABLE M2003.2**  
**EXPANSION TANK MINIMUM CAPACITY<sup>a</sup>**  
**FOR FORCED HOT-WATER SYSTEMS**

SYSTEM VOLUME <sup>b</sup> (gallons)	PRESSURIZED DIAPHRAGM TYPE	NONPRESSURIZED TYPE
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10	1.0	1.5
20	1.5	3.0
30	2.5	4.5
40	3.0	6.0
50	4.0	7.5
60	5.0	9.0
70	6.0	10.5
80	6.5	12.0
90	7.5	13.5
100	8.0	15.0

For SI: 1 gallon = 3.785 L, 1 pound per square inch gauge = 6.895 kPa,  
 $^{\circ}\text{C} = [(^{\circ}\text{F}) - 32]/1.8$ .

- a. Based on average water temperature of 195°F, fill pressure of 12 psig and an operating pressure of not greater than 30 psig.
- b. System volume includes volume of water in boiler, convectors and piping, not including the expansion tank.

**M2004.1 General.** Water heaters used to supply both potable hot water and hot water for space heating shall be installed in accordance with this chapter, Chapter 24, Chapter 28 and the manufacturer's instructions. Water heaters utilized both to supply potable hot water and provide hot water for space heating applications shall be listed and labeled for such applications by the manufacturer and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the *International Plumbing Code*.

**M2004.1.1 (1002.2.1) Sizing.** Water heaters utilized for both potable water heating and space-heating applications shall be sized to prevent the space-heating load from diminishing the required potable water-heating capacity.

**M2004.1.2 (1002.2.2) Temperature limitation.** Where a combination potable water-heating and space-heating system requires water for space heating at temperatures higher than 140°F (60°C), a temperature-actuated mixing valve that conforms to ASSE 1017 shall be provided to temper the water supplied to the potable hot water distribution system to a temperature of 140°F (60°C) or less.

**M2004.2 (1002.3) Supplemental water heating devices.** Potable water heating devices that utilize refrigerant to-water heat exchangers shall be approved and installed in accordance with the *International Plumbing Code* and the manufacturer's instructions.

**M2005.1 (1002.1) General.** Water heaters shall be installed in accordance with Chapter 28, the manufacturer's instructions and the requirements of this code. Water heaters installed in an attic shall comply with the requirements of Section M1305.1.2. Gas-fired water heaters shall comply with the requirements in Chapter 24. Domestic electric water heaters shall comply with UL 174. Oiled-fired water heaters shall comply with UL 732. Solar thermal water heating systems shall comply with Chapter 23 and ICC 900/SRCC 300. Solid fuel-fired water heaters shall comply with UL 2523.

**M2005.2 Prohibited locations.** Fuel-fired water heaters shall not be installed in a room used as a storage closet. Water heaters located in a room or space accessed only through a bedroom or bathroom shall be installed in a sealed enclosure so that combustion air will not be taken from the living space accordance with Section G2406.2. Installation of direct-vent water heaters within an enclosure is not required. See Section G2406.

**M2005.2.1 Water heater access.** Access to water heaters that are located in an *attic* or underfloor *crawl space* is permitted to be through a closet located in a sleeping room or bathroom where *ventilation* of those spaces is in accordance with this code and the requirements of Section G2406.2.

**M2005.3 Electric water heaters.** Electric water heaters shall be installed in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapters 34 through 43 the *North Carolina Electrical Code*.

**M2005.4 ~~(1002.3)~~ Supplemental water-heating devices.** Potable water-heating devices that use refrigerant-to-water heat exchangers shall be *approved* and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M2006.1 ~~(916.1)~~ General.** Pool and spa heaters shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions. Oil-fired pool heaters shall comply with UL 726. Electric pool and spa heaters shall comply with UL 1261. Pool and spa heat pump water heaters shall comply with UL 1995, UL/CSA/ANCE 60335-2-40 or CSA C22.2 No. 236.

**Exception:** Portable residential spas and portable residential exercise spas shall comply with UL 1563 or CSA C22.2 No. 218.1.

**M2006.3 Bypass valves.** Where an integral bypass system is not provided as a part of the pool heater, a bypass line and valve shall be installed between the inlet and outlet piping for use in adjusting the flow of water through the heater.

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**User notes:**

**About this chapter:** Chapter 21 is specific to hydronic piping, which includes steam, hot water and ground-source heat-pump system loop piping. This chapter addresses piping materials, joining methods, support, protection of the structure, testing, protection of potable water and general installation requirements.

**Code development reminder:** Code change proposals to this chapter will be considered by the IRC—Plumbing/Mechanical Code Development Committee during the 2021 (Group A) Code Development Cycle. See explanation on page vi.

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The text of this chapter is extracted from the 2018 edition of the *North Carolina Mechanical Code* and has been modified where necessary to conform to the scope of application of the *North Carolina Residential Code for One and Two Family Dwellings*. The section numbers appearing in parentheses after each section number are the section numbers of the corresponding text in the *North Carolina Mechanical Code*.

**M2101.2 (1206.2) System drain down.** Hydronic piping systems shall be installed to permit draining of the system. Where the system drains to the plumbing drainage system, the installation shall conform to the requirements of Chapters 25 through 32 of this code.

**Exception:** The buried portions of systems embedded underground or under floors.

**M2101.3 (1206.3) Protection of potable water.** The potable water system shall be protected from backflow in accordance with the provisions listed in Section P2902.

**M2101.4 (1206.4) Pipe penetrations.** Openings for pipe penetrations in walls, floors or ceilings shall be larger than the penetrating pipe. Openings through concrete or masonry building elements shall be sleeved. The annular space between the outside of a pipe and the inside of a pipe sleeve or between the outside of a pipe and an opening in a building envelope wall, floor, or ceiling assembly penetrated by a pipe shall be sealed with caulking material or foam sealant or closed with a gasketing system. The caulking material, foam sealant or gasketing system shall be designed for the conditions at the penetration location and shall be compatible with the pipe, sleeve and building materials in contact with the sealing materials. Annular spaces created by pipes penetrating fire-resistance-rated assemblies or membranes of such assemblies shall be sealed or closed in accordance with the building portion of this code.

**M2101.5 (1206.6) Contact with building material.** A hydronic piping system shall not be in direct contact with any building material that causes the piping material to degrade or corrode.

**M2101.6 Drilling and notching.** Wood-framed structural members shall be drilled, notched or altered in accordance with the provisions of Sections R502.8, R602.6, R602.6.1 and R802.7. Holes in load-bearing members of cold-formed steel *light-frame construction* shall not be permitted unless prescribed by a registered design professional only in accordance with Sections R505.2.6, R603.2.6 and R804.2.6. In accordance with the provisions of Sections R505.3.5, R603.3.4 and R804.3.3, eCutting and notching of flanges and lips of load-bearing members of cold-formed steel *light-frame construction* shall not be permitted unless prescribed by a registered design professional. Structural insulated panels (SIPs) shall be drilled and notched or altered in accordance with the provisions of Section R610.7.

**M2101.9 (305.4) Piping support.** Hangers and supports shall be of material of sufficient strength to support the piping, and shall be fabricated from materials compatible with the piping material. Piping shall be supported at intervals not exceeding the spacing specified in Table M2101.9.

**TABLE M2101.9  
HANGER SPACING INTERVALS**

PIPING MATERIAL	MAXIMUM HORIZONTAL SPACING (feet)	MAXIMUM VERTICAL SPACING (feet)
ABS	4	10 <sup>a</sup>
CPVC ≤ 1-inch pipe or tubing	3	5 <sup>a</sup>
CPVC ≥ 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> inches	4	10 <sup>a</sup>

Copper or copper alloy pipe	12	10
Copper or copper alloy tubing	6	10
PB pipe or tubing	2.67	4
PE pipe or tubing	2.67	4
PE-RT ≤ 1 inch	2.67	10 <sup>a</sup>
PE-RT ≥ 1¼ inches	4	10 <sup>a</sup>
PEX tubing ≤ 1 inch	2.67	4
PEX tubing ≥ 1¼ inches	4	10 <sup>a</sup>
PP < 1-inch pipe or tubing	2.67	4
PP > 1¼ inches	4	10 <sup>a</sup>
PVC	4	10 <sup>a</sup>
Steel pipe	12	15
Steel tubing	8	10

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

a. For sizes 2 inches and smaller, a guide shall be installed midway between required vertical supports. Such guides shall prevent pipe movement in a direction perpendicular to the axis of the pipe.

**M2101.10 Tests.** Hydronic piping systems shall be tested hydrostatically at a pressure of one and one-half times the maximum system design pressure, but not less than 100 pounds per square inch (689 kPa). The duration of each test shall be not less than 15 minutes.

**Exception:** For PEX piping systems, testing with a compressed gas shall be an alternative to hydrostatic testing where compressed air or other gas pressure testing is specifically authorized by all of the manufacturers' instructions for the PEX pipe and fittings products installed at the time the system is being tested, and compressed air or other gas testing is not otherwise prohibited by applicable codes, laws, or regulations outside of this code.

**M2101.10.1 (1201.4) Test gauges.** Gauges used for testing shall be as follows:

1. Tests requiring a pressure of 10 pounds per square inch (psi) (69 kPa) or less shall utilize a testing gauge having increments of 0.10 psi (0.69 kPa) or less.
2. Tests requiring a pressure of greater than 10 psi (69 kPa) but less than or equal to 100 psi (689 kPa) shall utilize a testing gauge having increments of 1 psi (6.9 kPa) or less.
3. Tests requiring a pressure of greater than 100 psi (689 kPa) shall utilize a testing gauge having increments of 2 psi (14 kPa) or less.

**M2101.10.2 (1209.2) Pressurizing during installation.** Piping to be embedded in concrete shall be pressure tested prior to pouring concrete. During pouring, the pipe shall be maintained at the proposed operating pressure.

**M2101.12 (1206.4) Pipe penetrations.** Openings for pipe penetrations in walls, floors or ceilings shall be larger than the penetrating pipe. Openings through concrete or masonry building elements shall be sleeved. The annular space surrounding pipe penetrations shall be protected in accordance with the *International Building Code*.

**M2101.13 (1206.5) Clearance to combustibles.** A pipe in a hydronic piping system in which the exterior temperature exceeds 250°F (121°C) shall have a minimum clearance of 1 inch (25 mm) to combustible materials.

**M2101.14 (1206.6) Contact with building material.** A hydronic piping system shall not be in direct contact with



building materials that cause the piping material to degrade or corrode, or that interfere with the operation of the system.

**M2101.17 (1206.9) Strains and stresses.** Piping shall be installed so as to prevent detrimental strains and stresses in the pipe. Provisions shall be made to protect piping from damage resulting from expansion, contraction and structural settlement. Piping shall be installed to avoid structural stresses or strains within building components.

**M2101.17.1 (1206.9.1) Flood hazard.** Piping located in a flood hazard area shall be capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and stresses, including the effects of buoyancy, during the occurrence of flooding to the design flood elevation.

**M2101.11 Used materials.** Used pipe, fittings, valves and other materials shall not be reused in hydronic systems.

**M2101.12 Material rating.** Pipe and tubing shall be rated for the operating temperature and pressure of the system. Fittings shall be suitable for the pressure applications and recommended by the manufacturer for use with the pipe and tubing material installed. Where used underground, materials shall be suitable for burial.

**M2101.13 Joints and connections.** Joints and connections shall be of an *approved* type. Joints and connections shall be tight for the pressure of the system. Joints used underground shall be *approved* for such applications.

**M2101.13.1 Joints between different piping materials.** Joints between different piping materials shall be made with *approved* transition fittings.

**M2101.14 Preparation of pipe ends.** Pipe shall be cut square, reamed and chamfered, and shall be free from burrs and obstructions. Pipe ends shall have full-bore openings and shall not be undercut.

**M2101.15 Joint preparation and installation.** Where required by Sections M2101.16 through M2101.26, the preparation and installation of brazed, mechanical, soldered, solvent-cemented, threaded, welded and thermoplastic-welded joints shall comply with Sections M2101.15.1 and M2101.15.29.

**M21021.15.1 (1203.3.1) Brazed joints.** Joint surfaces shall be cleaned. An *approved* flux shall be applied where required. The joint shall be brazed with a filler metal conforming to AWS A5.8.

**M2101.15.42 Mechanical joints.** Mechanical joints shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M21021.15.3 (1203.3.3) Soldered joints.** Joint surfaces shall be cleaned. Solder joints shall be made in accordance with ASTM B828. Cut tube ends shall be reamed to the full inside diameter of the tube end. A flux conforming to ASTM B813 shall be applied. The joint shall be soldered with a solder conforming to ASTM B32.

**M21021.15.4 (1203.3.4) Solvent-cemented joints.** Joint surfaces shall be clean and free of moisture. An *approved* primer shall be applied to CPVC and PVC pipe-joint surfaces. Joints shall be made while the cement is wet. Solvent cement conforming to the following standards shall be applied to all joint surfaces:

1. ASTM D2235 for ABS joints.
2. ASTM F493 for CPVC joints.
3. ASTM D2564 for PVC joints.

CPVC joints shall be made in accordance with ASTM D2846.

**Exception:** For CPVC pipe joint connections, a primer is not required where all of the following conditions apply:

1. The solvent cement used is third-party certified as conforming to ASTM F493.
2. The solvent cement is yellow in color.
3. The solvent cement is used only for joining 1/2-inch (12.7 mm) through 2-inch (51 mm) diameter CPVC pipe and fittings.
4. The CPVC pipe and fittings are manufactured in accordance with ASTM D2846.

**M2101.165.45 Threaded joints.** Threads shall conform to ASME B1.20.1 The pipe shall be Schedule 80, 40 or heavier plastic pipe and shall be threaded with dies specifically designed for plastic pipe. Thread lubricant, pipe-joint compound or tape shall be applied on the male threads only and shall be *approved* for application on the piping material.

**M21021.15.6 (1203.3.6) Welded joints.** Joint surfaces shall be cleaned by an *approved* procedure. Joints shall be welded with an *approved* filler metal.

**M21021.15.7 (1203.3.7) Grooved and shouldered mechanical joints.** Grooved and shouldered mechanical joints shall conform to the requirements of ASTM F1476 and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M21021.15.8 (4203.3.8) Mechanically formed tee fittings.** Mechanically extracted outlets shall have a height not less than three times the thickness of the branch tube wall.

**M21021.15.8.1 (4203.3.8.1) Full flow assurance.** Branch tubes shall not restrict the flow in the run tube. A dimple/depth stop shall be formed in the branch tube to ensure that penetration into the outlet is of the correct depth. For inspection purposes, a second dimple shall be placed 1/4 inch (6.4 mm) above the first dimple. Dimples shall be aligned with the tube run.

**M21021.15.8.2 (4203.3.8.2) Brazed joints.** Mechanically formed tee fittings shall be brazed in accordance with Section M21021.15.1.

**M2101.15.29 Thermoplastic-welded joints.** Joint surfaces for thermoplastic-welded joints shall be cleaned by an approved procedure. Joints shall be welded in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M2101.16 ABS, CPVC and PVC plastic pipe.** Joints between CPVC plastic pipe or fittings shall be solvent cemented in accordance with Section P2906.9.1.2 M2101.15.4. Threaded joints between fittings and CPVC plastic pipe shall be in accordance with Section M2101.165.4.5.

**M21021.517 (4203.7) Copper or copper-alloy pipe.** Joints between copper or copper-alloy pipe or fittings shall be brazed, mechanical, soldered, threaded or welded joints conforming to Section M21021.15.

**M21021.618 (4203.8) Copper or copper-alloy tubing.** Joints between copper or copper-alloy tubing or fittings shall be brazed, mechanical or soldered joints conforming to Section M21021.15, flared joints conforming to Section M21021.618.1, push-fit joints conforming to Section M21021.618.2 or *press-type connect* joints conforming to Section M21021.618.3.

**M21021.618.1 (4203.8.1) Flared joints.** Flared joints shall be made by a tool designed for that operation.

**M21021.618.2 (4203.8.2) Push-fit joints.** Push-fit joints shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M21021.618.3 (4203.8.3) Press-connect joints.** *Press-connect joints* shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M2101.179 Cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) plastic tubing.** Joints between cross-linked polyethylene plastic tubing and fittings shall comply with Sections M2101.179.1 and M2101.179.2. Mechanical joints shall comply with Section M2101.15.2.

**M2101.179.1 Compression-type fittings.** Where compression-type fittings include inserts and ferrules or O-rings, the fittings shall be installed without omitting the inserts and ferrules or O-rings.

**M2101.179.2 Plastic-to-metal.** Solder joints in a metal pipe shall not occur within 18 inches (457 mm) of a transition from such metal pipe to plastic pipe or tubing.

**M21021.4620 (4203.18) Cross-linked polyethylene/aluminum/crosslinked polyethylene (PEX-AL-PEX) pressure pipe.** Joints between cross-linked polyethylene/aluminum/crosslinked polyethylene pressure pipe and fittings shall conform to Sections M21021.4620.1 and M21021.4620.2. Mechanical joints shall comply with Section M21021.15.2.

**M21021.4620.1 (4203.18.1) Compression-type fittings.** Where compression-type fittings include inserts and ferrules or O-rings, the fittings shall be installed without omitting the inserts and ferrules or O-rings.

**M21021.4620.2 (4203.18.2) PEX-AL-PEX-to-metal connections.** Solder joints in a metal pipe shall not occur within 18 inches (457 mm) of a transition from such metal pipe to PEX-AL-PEX pipe.

**M2101.4821 Polyethylene plastic pipe and tubing.** Joints between polyethylene plastic pipe and tubing or fittings for systems shall be heat-fusion joints complying with Section M2101.4821.1, electrofusion joints complying with Section M2101.4821.2, or stab-type insertion joints complying with Section M2101.4821.3.

**M2101.4821.1 Heat-fusion joints.** Joints shall be of the socket-fusion, saddle-fusion or butt-fusion type, and joined in accordance with ASTM D2657. Joint surfaces shall be clean and free from moisture. Joint surfaces shall be heated to melt temperatures and joined. The joint shall remain undisturbed until cool. Fittings shall be manufactured in accordance with ASTM D2683 or ASTM D3261.

**M2101.4821.2 Electrofusion joints.** Joints shall be of the electrofusion type. Joint surfaces shall be clean and free from moisture, and scoured to expose virgin resin. Joint surfaces shall be heated to melt temperatures for the period

of time specified by the manufacturer. The joint shall remain undisturbed until cool. Fittings shall be manufactured in accordance with ASTM F1055.

**M2101.4821.3 Stab-type insert fittings.** Joint surfaces shall be clean and free from moisture. Pipe ends shall be chamfered and inserted into the fittings to full depth. Fittings shall be manufactured in accordance with ASTM F1924.

**M21021.4522 (4203.17) Polyethylene/aluminum/polyethylene (PE-AL-PE) pressure pipe.** Joints between polyethylene/aluminum/polyethylene pressure pipe and fittings shall conform to Sections M21021.4522.1 and M21021.4522.2. Mechanical joints shall comply with Section M21021.15.2.

**M21021.4522.1 (4203.17.1) Compression-type fittings.** Where compression-type fittings include inserts and ferrules or O-rings, the fittings shall be installed without omitting the inserts and ferrules or O-rings.

**M21021.4522.2 (4203.17.2) PE-AL-PE-to-metal connections.** Solder joints in a metal pipe shall not occur within 18 inches (457 mm) of a transition from such metal pipe to PE-AL-PE pipe.

**M2101.4923 Polypropylene (PP) plastic.** Joints between PP plastic pipe and fittings shall comply with Sections M2101.4923.1 and M2101.4923.2.

**M2101.4923.1 Heat-fusion joints.** Heat-fusion joints for polypropylene (PP) pipe and tubing joints shall be installed with socket-type heat-fused polypropylene fittings, electrofusion polypropylene fittings or by butt fusion. Joint surfaces shall be clean and free from moisture. The joint shall remain undisturbed until cool. Joints shall be made in accordance with ASTM F2389.

**M2101.4923.2 Mechanical and compression sleeve joints.** Mechanical and compression sleeve joints shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M2101.204 Raised temperature polyethylene (PE-RT) plastic tubing.** Joints between raised temperature polyethylene tubing and fittings shall comply with Sections M2101.204.1 through M2101.204.4. Mechanical joints shall comply with Section M2101.15.4.2.

**M2101.204.1 Compression-type fittings.** Where compression-type fittings include inserts and ferrules or O-rings, the fittings shall be installed without omitting the inserts and ferrules or O-rings.

**M2101.204.2 PE-RT-to-metal connections.** Solder joints in a metal pipe shall not occur within 18 inches (457 mm) of a transition from such metal pipe to PE-RT pipe or tubing.

**M2101.204.3 Heat-fusion joints.** Heat-fusion joints shall be of the socket-fusion, saddle-fusion or butt-fusion type, and shall be joined in accordance with ASTM D2657. Joint surfaces shall be clean and free from moisture. Joint surfaces shall be heated to melt temperatures and joined. The joint shall remain undisturbed until cool. Fittings shall be manufactured in accordance with ASTM D2683 or ASTM D3261.

**M2101.204.4 Electrofusion joints.** Joints shall be of the electrofusion type. Joint surfaces shall be clean and free from moisture and scoured to expose virgin resin. Joint surfaces shall be heated to melt temperatures for the period of time specified by the manufacturer and joined. The joint shall remain undisturbed until cool. Fittings shall be manufactured in accordance with ASTM F1055.

~~**M2101.21 PVC plastic pipe.** Joints between PVC plastic pipe or fittings shall be solvent cemented in accordance with Section P2906.9.1.4. Threaded joints between fittings and PVC plastic pipe shall be in accordance with Section M2101.16.1.~~

**M21021.4425 (4203.13) Steel pipe.** Joints between steel pipe or fittings shall be mechanical joints that are made with an *approved* elastomeric seal, or shall be brazed, threaded or welded joints conforming to Section M21021.15.

**M21021.426 (4203.14) Steel tubing.** Joints between steel tubing or fittings shall be mechanical or welded joints conforming to Section M21021.15.

**M2101.227 Shutoff valves.** Shutoff valves shall be installed in ground-source loop piping systems in the locations indicated in Sections M2101.227.1 through M2101.227.6.

**M2101.227.1 Heat exchangers.** Shutoff valves shall be installed on the supply and return sides of a heat exchanger.

**Exception:** Shutoff valves shall not be required where heat exchangers are integral with a boiler or are a component of a manufacturer's boiler and heat exchanger packaged unit and are capable of being isolated from the hydronic system by the supply and return valves required by Section M2001.3.

**M2101.227.2 Central systems.** Shutoff valves shall be installed on the building supply and return of a central utility system.

**M2101.227.3 Pressure vessels.** Shutoff valves shall be installed on the connection to any pressure vessel.

**M2101.227.4 Pressure-reducing valves.** Shutoff valves shall be installed on both sides of a pressure-reducing valve.

**M2101.227.5 Equipment and appliances.** Shutoff valves shall be installed on connections to mechanical equipment and *appliances*. This requirement does not apply to components of ground-source loop systems such as pumps, air separators, metering devices, and similar equipment.

**M2101.227.6 Expansion tanks.** Shutoff valves shall be installed at connections to nondiaphragm-type expansion tanks.

**M2101.238 Reduced pressure.** A pressure relief valve shall be installed on the low-pressure side of a hydronic piping system that has been reduced in pressure. The relief valve shall be set at the maximum pressure of the system design. The valve shall be installed in accordance with Section M2002.

**M2101.249 Installation.** Piping, valves, fittings and connections shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M2101.25 Protection of potable water.** Where hydronic systems have a connection to a potable water supply, the potable water system shall be protected from backflow in accordance with Section P2902.

**M2101.26 Pipe penetrations.** Openings for pipe penetrations in walls, floors and ceilings shall be larger than the penetrating pipe. Openings through concrete or masonry building elements shall be sleeved. The annular space surrounding pipe penetrations shall be protected in accordance with Section P2606.1.

**M2101.2730 Clearance from combustibles.** A pipe in a piping system having an exterior surface temperature exceeding 250°F (121°C) shall have a clearance of not less than 1 inch (25 mm) from *combustible materials*.

**M2101.28 Contact with building material.** A piping system shall not be in direct contact with building materials that cause the piping or fitting material to degrade or corrode, or that interfere with the operation of the system.

**M2101.2931 Strains and stresses.** Piping shall be installed so as to prevent detrimental strains and stresses in the pipe. Provisions shall be made to protect piping from damage resulting from expansion, contraction and structural settlement. Piping shall be installed so as to avoid structural stresses or strains within building components.

**M2101.2931.1 Flood hazard.** Piping located in a flood hazard area shall be capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and stresses, including the effects of buoyancy, during the occurrence of flooding to the design flood elevation.

**M2101.3032 Chemical compatibility.** Antifreeze and other materials used in the system shall be chemically compatible with the pipe, tubing, fittings and mechanical systems.

**M2101.343 Makeup water.** The transfer fluid shall be compatible with the makeup water supplied to the system.

**M2101.4134 (1206.11) Condensation.** Provisions shall be made to prevent the formation of condensation on the exterior of hydronic piping. Hydronic piping shall be insulated per the mechanical system piping insulation requirements of Chapter 11 of this code.

**M2101.4535 (1206.7) Water hammer.** The flow velocity of the hydronic piping system shall be controlled to reduce the possibility of water hammer. Where a quick-closing valve creates water hammer, an *approved* water-hammer arrestor shall be installed. The arrestor shall be located within a range as specified by the manufacturer of the quick-closing valve.

**M2101.4636 (1206.8) Steam piping pitch.** Steam piping shall be installed to drain to the boiler or the steam trap. Steam systems shall not have drip pockets that reduce the capacity of the steam piping.

## SECTION M2102

### BASEBOARD CONVECTORS JOINTS AND CONNECTIONS

**M2102.1 General.** Baseboard convectors shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Convectors shall be supported independently of the hydronic piping.

**M2102.1 (1203.3) Joint preparation and installation.** Joints and connections shall be of an *approved* type. Joints and connections shall be tight for the pressure of the hydronic system. Joints between different piping materials shall be made with *approved* adapter fittings. Pipe shall be cut square, reamed and chamfered, and shall be free of burrs and obstructions. Pipe ends shall have full bore openings and shall not be undercut.

Where required by Sections M2102.2 through M2102.12, the preparation and installation of brazed, mechanical, soldered, solvent cemented, threaded and welded joints shall comply with Sections M2102.1.1 through M2102.1.8.

**M2102.1.2 (1203.3.2) Mechanical joints.** Mechanical joints shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M2102.1.5 (1203.3.5) Threaded joints.** Threads shall conform to ASME B1.20.1. Schedule 80 or heavier plastic pipe shall be threaded with dies specifically designed for plastic pipe. Thread lubricant, pipe joint compound or tape shall be applied on the male threads only and shall be *approved* for application on the piping material.

**M2102.2 (1203.4) ABS plastic pipe.** Joints between ABS plastic pipe or fittings shall be solvent cemented or threaded joints conforming to Section M2102.1.

**M2102.3 (1203.5) Brass pipe.** Joints between brass pipe or fittings shall be brazed, mechanical, threaded or welded joints conforming to Section M2102.1.

**M2102.4 (1203.6) Brass tubing.** Joints between brass tubing or fittings shall be brazed, mechanical or soldered joints conforming to Section M2102.1.

**M2102.7 (1203.9) CPVC plastic pipe.** Joints between CPVC plastic pipe or fittings shall be solvent cemented or threaded joints conforming to Section M2102.1.

**M2102.8 (1203.10) Polybutylene plastic pipe and tubing.** Joints between polybutylene plastic pipe and tubing or fittings shall be mechanical joints conforming to Section M2102.1 or heat fusion joints conforming to Section M2102.8.1.

**M2102.8.1 (1203.10.1) Heat fusion joints.** Joints shall be of the socket fusion or butt fusion type. Joint surfaces shall be clean and free of moisture. Joint surfaces shall be heated to melt temperatures and joined. The joint shall be undisturbed until cool. Joints shall be made in accordance with ASTM D3309.

**M2102.9 (1203.11) Cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) plastic tubing.** Joints between cross-linked polyethylene plastic tubing and fittings shall conform to Sections M2102.9.1 and M2102.9.2. Mechanical joints shall conform to Section M2102.1.

**M2102.9.1 (1203.11.1) Compression type fittings.** Where compression type fittings include inserts and ferrules or O rings, the fittings shall be installed without omitting the inserts and ferrules or O rings.

**M2102.9.2 (1203.11.2) Plastic to metal connections.** Soldering on the metal portion of the system shall be performed not less than 18 inches (457 mm) from a plastic to metal adapter in the same water line.

**M2102.10 (1203.12) PVC plastic pipe.** Joints between PVC plastic pipe and fittings shall be solvent cemented or threaded joints conforming to Section M2102.1.

**M2102.13 (1203.15) Polypropylene (PP) plastic.** Joints between PP plastic pipe and fittings shall comply with Sections M2102.13.1 and M2102.13.2.

**M2102.13.1 (1203.15.1) Heat fusion joints.** Heat fusion joints for polypropylene (PP) pipe and tubing joints shall be installed with socket type heat fused polypropylene fittings, electro fusion polypropylene fittings or by butt fusion. Joint surfaces shall be clean and free from moisture. The joint shall be undisturbed until cool. Joints shall be made in accordance with ASTM F2389.

**M2102.13.2 (1203.15.2) Mechanical and compression sleeve joints.** Mechanical and compression sleeve joints shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M2102.14 (1203.16) Raised temperature polyethylene (PE-RT) plastic tubing.** Joints between raised temperature polyethylene tubing and fittings shall conform to Sections M2102.14.1 and M2102.14.2. Mechanical joints shall conform to Section M2102.1.

**M2102.14.1 (1203.16.1) Compression type fittings.** Where compression type fittings include inserts and ferrules or O rings, the fittings shall be installed without omitting the inserts and ferrules or O rings.

**M2102.14.2 (1203.16.2) PE-RT to metal connections.** Solder joints in a metal pipe shall not occur within 18 inches (457 mm) of a transition from such metal pipe to PE-RT pipe.

**M2103.1 Piping materials.** Piping for embedment in concrete or gypsum materials shall be standard-weight steel pipe, copper and copper-alloy pipe and tubing, cross-linked polyethylene/aluminum/cross-linked polyethylene (PEX-AL-PEX) pressure pipe, chlorinated polyvinyl chloride (CPVC), cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) tubing, polyethylene of raised temperature (PE-RT) or polypropylene (PP) with a rating of not less than 80 pounds per square inch at 180°F (552 kPa at 82°C).

**M2103.2 Thermal barrier required.** Radiant floor heating systems shall have a thermal barrier in accordance with Sections M2103.2.1 and M2103.2.2. Insulation *R*-values for slab-on-grade and suspended floor installations shall be in accordance with Chapter 11.

**Exception:** Insulation shall not be required in engineered systems where it can be demonstrated that the insulation will decrease the efficiency or have a negative effect on the installation.

**M2103.2.1 Thermal break required.** A thermal break consisting of asphalt expansion joint materials or similar insulating materials shall be provided at a point where a heated slab meets a foundation wall or other conductive slab.

**M2103.2.2 Thermal barrier material marking.** Insulating materials used in thermal barriers shall be installed so that the manufacturer's *R*-value mark is readily observable upon inspection.

**M2103.3 Piping joints.** Copper and copper-alloy systems shall be soldered, brazed, or press connected. Soldering shall be in accordance with ASTM B828. Fluxes for soldering shall be in accordance with ASTM B813. Brazing fluxes shall be in accordance with AWS A5.31. Press-connect joints shall be in accordance with ASME B16.51. Piping joints that are embedded shall be installed in accordance with the following requirements:

1. Steel pipe joints shall be welded.
2. Copper tubing shall be joined by brazing complying with Section P3003.6.1. All joint surfaces shall be cleaned. An approved flux shall be applied where required. Brazing materials shall have a melting point in excess of 1,000°F (538°C). Brazing alloys filler metal shall be in accordance with AWS A5.8.
3. Polybutylene pipe and tubing joints shall be installed with socket type heat fused polybutylene fittings.
4. CPVC tubing shall be joined using solvent cement joints.
5. Polypropylene pipe and tubing joints shall be installed with socket-type heat-fused polypropylene fittings.
6. Cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) tubing shall be joined using cold expansion, insert or compression fittings.
7. Raised temperature polyethylene (PE-RT) tubing shall be joined using insert or compression fittings.

~~Deleted.~~

**M2103.4 Testing.** Piping or tubing to be embedded shall be tested by applying a hydrostatic pressure of not less than 100 psi (690 kPa). The pressure shall be maintained for 30 minutes, during which the joints shall be visually inspected for leaks. ~~Deleted.~~

**M2104.2 Piping joints.** Piping joints that are embedded, other than those in Section M2103.3, shall comply with the following requirements:

1. Cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) tubing shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
2. Polyethylene tubing shall be installed with heat-fusion joints.
3. Polypropylene (PP) tubing shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
4. Raised temperature polyethylene (PE-RT) shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M2104.3 Raised temperature polyethylene (PE-RT) plastic tubing.** Joints between raised temperature polyethylene tubing and fittings shall conform to Sections M2104.3.1 through M2104.3.3. Mechanical joints shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M2104.4 Polyethylene/aluminum/polyethylene (PE-AL-PE) pressure pipe.** Joints between polyethylene/aluminum/polyethylene pressure pipe and fittings shall conform to Sections M2104.4.1 and M2104.4.2. Mechanical joints shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.



**M2104.4.2 PE-AL-PE-to-metal connections.** Solder joints in a metal pipe shall not occur within 18 inches (457 mm) of a transition from such metal pipe to PE-AL-PE pipe.

**M2105.1 (1210.4) Plastic ground-source heat-pump loop piping.** Plastic piping and tubing material used in water-based ground-source heat-pump ground-loop systems shall conform to the standards specified in this section.

**M2105.2 (1210.2) Used materials.** Reused pipe, fittings, valves, and other materials shall not be used in ground-source heat-pump loop systems.

**M2105.3 (1210.3) Material rating.** Pipe and tubing shall be rated for the operating temperature and pressure of the ground-source heat-pump loop system. Fittings shall be suitable for the pressure applications and recommended by the manufacturer for installation with the pipe and tubing material installed. Where used underground, materials shall be suitable for burial.

**M2105.4 (1210.4) Piping and tubing materials standards.** Ground-source heat-pump ground-loop pipe and tubing shall conform to the standards listed in Table M2105.4.

**M2105.5 (1210.5) Fittings.** Ground-source heat-pump pipe fittings shall be *approved* for installation with the piping materials to be installed, shall conform to the standards listed in Table M2105.5 and, where installed underground, shall be suitable for burial.

**M2105.6 (1210.6) Joints and connections.** Joints and connections shall be of an *approved* type. Joints and connections shall be tight for the pressure of the ground-source loop system. Joints used underground shall be *approved* for such applications.

**M2105.6.1 (1210.6.1) Joints between different piping materials.** Joints between different piping materials shall be made with *approved* transition fittings.

**M2105.7 (1210.6.2) Preparation of pipe ends.** Pipe shall be cut *square and* shall be free of burrs and obstructions. Pipe ends shall have full-bore openings and shall *be prepared in accordance with the pipe manufacturer's instructions.*

**M2105.8 (1210.6.3) Joint preparation and installation.** Where required by Sections M2105.9 through M2105.11, the preparation and installation of mechanical and thermoplastic-welded joints shall comply with Sections M2105.8.1 and M2105.8.2.

**M2105.8.1 (1210.6.3.1) Mechanical joints.** Mechanical joints shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M2105.8.2 (1210.6.3.2) Thermoplastic-welded joints.** Joint surfaces for thermoplastic-welded joints shall be cleaned by an *approved* procedure. Joints shall be welded in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M2105.9 (1210.6.4) CPVC plastic pipe.** Joints between CPVC plastic pipe or fittings shall be solvent-cemented in accordance with Section ~~P2906.9.1.2~~M2101.15.4. Threaded joints between fittings and CPVC plastic pipe shall be in accordance with Section M2105.9.1.

**M2105.10 (1210.6.5) Cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) plastic tubing.** Joints between cross-linked polyethylene plastic tubing and fittings shall comply with Sections M2105.10.1 and M2105.10.2. Mechanical joints shall comply with Section M2105.8.1.

**M2105.10.1 (1210.6.5.1) Compression-type fittings.** Where compression-type fittings include inserts and ferrules or O-rings, the fittings shall be installed without omitting the inserts and ferrules or O-rings.

**M2105.10.2 (1210.6.5.2) Plastic-to-metal connections.** Solder joints in a metal pipe shall not occur within 18 inches (457 mm) of a transition from such metal pipe to plastic pipe or tubing.

**M2105.11 (1210.6.6) Polyethylene plastic pipe and tubing.** Joints between polyethylene plastic pipe and tubing or fittings for ground-source heat-pump loop systems shall be heat-fusion joints complying with Section M2105.11.1, electrofusion joints complying with Section M2105.11.2, or stab-type insertion joints complying with Section M2105.11.3.

**M2105.11.1 (1210.6.6.1) Heat-fusion joints.** Joints shall be of the socket-fusion, saddle-fusion or butt-fusion type, and joined in accordance with ASTM D2657. Joint surfaces shall be clean and free *from* moisture. Joint surfaces shall be heated to melt temperatures and joined. The joint shall *remain* undisturbed until cool. Fittings shall be manufactured in accordance with ASTM D2683 or ASTM D3261.

**M2105.11.2 (1210.6.6.1) Electrofusion joints.** Joints shall be of the electrofusion type. Joint surfaces shall be clean and free from moisture, and scoured to expose virgin resin. Joint surfaces shall be heated to melt temperatures for the period of time specified by the manufacturer. The joint shall remain undisturbed until cool. Fittings shall be manufactured in accordance with ASTM F1055.

**M2105.11.3 (1210.6.6.3) Stab-type insert fittings.** Joint surfaces shall be clean and free from moisture. Pipe ends shall be chamfered and inserted into the fittings to full depth. Fittings shall be manufactured in accordance with ASTM F1924.

**M2105.12 (1210.6.7) Polypropylene (PP) plastic.** Joints between PP plastic pipe and fittings shall comply with Sections M2105.12.1 and M2105.12.2.

**M2105.12.1 (1210.6.7.1) Heat-fusion joints.** Heat-fusion joints for polypropylene (PP) pipe and tubing joints shall be installed with socket-type heat-fused polypropylene fittings, electrofusion polypropylene fittings or by butt fusion. Joint surfaces shall be clean and free from moisture. The joint shall remain undisturbed until cool. Joints shall be made in accordance with ASTM F2389.

**M2105.12.2 (1210.6.7.2) Mechanical and compression sleeve joints.** Mechanical and compression sleeve joints shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M2105.13 (1210.6.8) Raised temperature polyethylene (PE-RT) plastic tubing.** Joints between raised temperature polyethylene tubing and fittings shall comply with Sections M2105.13.1 through M2105.13.4. Mechanical joints shall comply with Section M2105.8.1.

**M2105.13.1 (1210.6.8.1) Compression-type fittings.** Where compression-type fittings include inserts and ferrules or O-rings, the fittings shall be installed without omitting the inserts and ferrules or O-rings.

**M2105.13.2 (1210.6.8.2) PE-RT-to-metal connections.** Solder joints in a metal pipe shall not occur within 18 inches (457 mm) of a transition from such metal pipe to PE-RT pipe or tubing.

**M2105.13.3 Heat-fusion joints.** Heat-fusion joints shall be of the socket-fusion, saddle-fusion or butt-fusion type, and shall be joined in accordance with ASTM D2657. Joint surfaces shall be clean and free from moisture. Joint surfaces shall be heated to melt temperatures and joined. The joint shall remain undisturbed until cool. Fittings shall be manufactured in accordance with ASTM D2683 or ASTM D3261.

**M2105.13.4 Electrofusion joints.** Joints shall be of the electrofusion type. Joint surfaces shall be clean and free from moisture and scoured to expose virgin resin. Joint surfaces shall be heated to melt temperatures for the period of time specified by the manufacturer and joined. The joint shall remain undisturbed until cool. Fittings shall be manufactured in accordance with ASTM F1055.

**M2105.14 (1210.6.9) PVC plastic pipe.** Joints between PVC plastic pipe or fittings shall be solvent-cemented in accordance with Section P2906.9.1.4 M2101.15.4. Threaded joints between fittings and PVC plastic pipe shall be in accordance with Section M2105.9.1.

**M2105.15 (1210.7) Shutoff valves.** Shutoff valves shall be installed in ground-source loop piping systems in the locations indicated in Sections M2105.15.1 through M2105.15.6.

**M2105.15.5 Equipment and appliances.** Shutoff valves shall be installed on connections to mechanical equipment and appliances. This requirement does not apply to components of ground-source loop systems such as pumps, air separators, metering devices, and similar equipment.

**M2105.16 (1210.7.7) Reduced pressure.** A pressure relief valve shall be installed on the low-pressure side of a hydronic piping system that has been reduced in pressure. The relief valve shall be set at the maximum pressure of the system design. The valve shall be installed in accordance with Section M2002.

**M2105.17 (1210.8) Installation.** Piping, valves, fittings, and connections shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**M2105.18 (1210.8.1) Protection of potable water.** Where ground-source heat-pump ground-loop systems have a connection to a potable water supply, the potable water system shall be protected from backflow in accordance with Section P2902.

**M2105.19 (1210.8.2) Pipe penetrations.** Openings for pipe penetrations in walls, floors and ceilings shall be larger than the penetrating pipe. Openings through concrete or masonry building elements shall be sleeved. The annular space surrounding pipe penetrations shall be protected in accordance with Section P2606.1. The annular space between the outside of a pipe and the inside of a pipe sleeve or between the outside of a pipe and an opening in a building



envelope wall, floor, or ceiling assembly penetrated by a pipe shall be sealed with caulking material or foam sealant or closed with a gasketing system. The caulking material, foam sealant or gasketing system shall be designed for the conditions at the penetration location and shall be compatible with the pipe, sleeve and building materials in contact with the sealing materials. Annular spaces created by pipes penetrating fire-resistance-rated assemblies or membranes of such assemblies shall be sealed or closed in accordance with the building portion of this code.

**M2105.20 (1210.8.3) Clearance from combustibles.** A pipe in a ground-source heat pump piping system having an exterior surface temperature exceeding 250°F (121°C) shall have a clearance of not less than 1 inch (25 mm) from combustible materials.

**M2105.21 (1210.8.4) Contact with building material.** A ground-source heat-pump ground-loop piping system shall not be in direct contact with building materials that cause the piping or fitting material to degrade or corrode, or that interfere with the operation of the system.

**M2105.22 (1210.8.5) Strains and stresses.** Piping shall be installed so as to prevent detrimental strains and stresses in the pipe. Provisions shall be made to protect piping from damage resulting from expansion, contraction and structural settlement. Piping shall be installed so as to avoid structural stresses or strains within building components.

**M2105.23 (1210.8.7) Pipe support.** Pipe shall be supported in accordance with Section M2101.9.

**M2105.24 (1210.8.8) Velocities.** Ground-source heat-pump ground-loop systems shall be designed so that the flow velocities do not exceed the maximum flow velocity recommended by the pipe and fittings manufacturer. Flow velocities shall be controlled to reduce the possibility of water hammer.

**M2105.25 (1210.8.9) Labeling and marking.** Ground-source heat-pump ground-loop system piping shall be marked with tape, metal tags or other methods where it enters a building. The marking shall state the following words: "GROUND-SOURCE HEAT-PUMP LOOP SYSTEM." The marking shall indicate if antifreeze is used in the system and shall indicate the chemicals by name and concentration.

**M2105.26 (1210.8.10) Chemical compatibility.** Antifreeze and other materials used in the system shall be chemically compatible with the pipe, tubing, fittings and mechanical systems.

**M2105.27 (1210.9) Makeup water.** The transfer fluid shall be compatible with the makeup water supplied to the system.

**M2105.28 (1210.10) Testing.** Before connection header trenches are backfilled, the assembled loop system shall be pressure tested with water at 100 psi (689 kPa) for 15 minutes without observed leaks. Flow and pressure loss testing shall be performed and the actual flow rates and pressure drops shall be compared to the calculated design values. If actual flow rate or pressure drop values differ from calculated design values by more than 10 percent, the cause shall be identified and corrective action taken.

**M2105.29 (1210.11) Embedded piping.** Ground-source heat-pump ground-loop piping to be embedded in concrete shall be pressure tested prior to pouring concrete. During pouring, the pipe shall be maintained at the proposed operating pressure.

**SECTION M2106**  
**BASEBOARD CONVECTORS**

**M2106.1 General.** Baseboard convectors shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Convectors shall be supported independently of the hydronic piping.

**TABLE M2101.1 (1202.4)**  
**HYDRONIC PIPING AND FITTING MATERIALS**

MATERIAL	USE CODE <sup>a</sup>	STANDARD <sup>b</sup>	JOINTS	NOTES
Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) plastic pipe	1, 5	ASTM D1527, ASTM F2806, ASTM F2969	Solvent cement joints, Threaded, if permitted by the manufacturer.	—

Chlorinated poly (vinyl chloride) (CPVC) pipe and tubing	1, 2, 3	ASTM D2846	Solvent cement joints, compression joints and threaded adapters	—
Copper and copper-alloy tubing (Type K, L or M)	1, 2	ASME B16.51, ASTM B75, ASTM B88, ASTM B135, ASTM B251, ASTM B306	Brazed, soldered, press-connected and flared mechanical fittings	Joints embedded in concrete shall be brazed
Cross-linked polyethylene (PEX)	1, 2, 3	ASTM F876; ASTM F3253	(See PEX fittings)	Install in accordance with manufacturer's instructions
Cross-linked polyethylene/aluminum/cross-linked polyethylene (PEX-AL-PEX) pressure pipe	1, 2	ASTM F1281 or CAN/CSA B137.10	Mechanical, crimp/insert	Install in accordance with manufacturer's instructions
PEX fittings	—	ASTM F877, ASTM F1807, ASTM F1960, ASTM F2098, ASTM F2159, ASTM F2735, ASTM F3253	Copper crimp/insert fittings, cold expansion fittings, stainless steel clamp, insert fittings	Install in accordance with manufacturer's instructions
Polybutylene (PB) pipe and tubing	1, 2, 3	ASTM D3309	Heat fusion, crimp/insert and compression	Joints in concrete shall be heat fused
Polyethylene/aluminum/polyethylene (PE-AL-PE) pressure pipe	1, 2, 3	ASTM F1282, CSA B137.9	Mechanical, crimp/insert	—
Polypropylene (PP)	1, 2, 3	ISO 15874, ASTM F2389	Heat-fusion joints, mechanical fittings, threaded adapters, compression joints	—
Raised temperature polyethylene (PE-RT)	1, 2, 3	ASTM F2623, ASTM F2769, CSA B137.18	Copper crimp/insert fitting, stainless steel clamp, insert fittings	—
Raised temperature polyethylene (PE-RT) fittings	1, 2, 3	ASTM D3261, ASTM F1807, ASTM F2098, ASTM F2159, ASTM F2735, ASTM F2769, CSA B137.18	Copper crimp/insert fitting, stainless steel clamp, insert fittings	—
Steel pipe	1, 2	ASTM A53, ASTM A106	Brazed, welded, threaded, flanged and mechanical fittings	Joints in concrete shall be welded. Galvanized pipe shall not be welded or brazed.
Steel tubing	1	ASTM A254	Mechanical fittings, welded	—

For SI: °C = [(°F) – 32]/1.8.

a. Use code:

1. Above ground.

2. Embedded in radiant systems.
  3. Temperatures below 180°F only.
  4. Low-temperature (below 130°F) applications only.
  5. Temperatures below 160°F only.
- b. Standards as listed in Chapter 44.

**TABLE M2105.4  
GROUND-SOURCE LOOP PIPE**

MATERIAL	STANDARD
Chlorinated polyvinyl chloride (CPVC)	ASTM D2846; ASTM F437; ASTM F438; ASTM F439; ASTM F441; ASTM F442; CSA B137.6
Cross-linked polyethylene (PEX)	ASTM F876; CSA B137.5; ANSI/CSA/IGSHPA C448; NSF 358-3
High-density polyethylene (HDPE)	ASTM D2737; ASTM D3035; ASTM F714; AWWA C901; CSA B137.1; ANSI/CSA/IGSHPA C448; NSF 358-1
Polyethylene/aluminum/polyethylene (PE-AL-PE) pressure pipe	ASTM F1282; AWWA C903; CSA B137.9
Polypropylene (PP-R)	ASTM F2389; CSA B137.11; NSF 358-2
Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)	ASTM D1785; ASTM D2241; CSA B137.3
Raised temperature polyethylene (PE-RT)	ASTM F2623; ASTM F2769; CSA B137.18; ANSI/CSA/IGSHPA C448; NSF 358-4

**TABLE M2105.5  
GROUND-SOURCE LOOP PIPE FITTINGS**

PIPE MATERIAL	STANDARD
Chlorinated polyvinyl chloride (CPVC)	ASTM D2846; ASTM F437; ASTM F438; ASTM F439; ASTM F1970; CSA B137.6
Cross-linked polyethylene (PEX)	ASTM F877; ASTM F1807; ASTM F1960; ASTM F2080; ASTM F2159; ASTM F2434; CSA B137.5; ANSI/CSA/IGSHPA C448; NSF 358-3
High-density polyethylene (HDPE)	ASTM D2683; ASTM D3261; ASTM F1055; CSA B137.1; ANSI/CSA/IGSHPA C448; NSF 358-1
Polyethylene/aluminum/polyethylene (PE-AL-PE)	ASTM F1282; ASTM F2434; CSA B137.9
Polypropylene (PP-R)	ASTM F2389; CSA B137.11; NSF 358-2
Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)	ASTM D2464; ASTM D2466; ASTM D2467; ASTM F1970; CSA B137.2; CSA B137.3
Raised temperature polyethylene (PE-RT)	ASTM D2683; ASTM D3261; ASTM F1055; ASTM F1807; ASTM F2098; ASTM F2159; ASTM F2735; ASTM F2769; CSA B137.1; CSA B137.18; ANSI/CSA/IGSHPA C448; NSF 358-4

## CHAPTER 22

# SPECIAL FUEL OIL PIPING AND STORAGE SYSTEMS

### User notes:

— **About this chapter:** Chapter 22 addresses fuel oil piping and storage related to oil-fired heating appliances. Materials, joining methods, tanks, pumps, valves and installation of such are covered.

— **Code development reminder:** Code change proposals to this chapter will be considered by the IRC—Plumbing/Mechanical Code Development Committee during the 2021 (Group A) Code Development Cycle. See explanation on page iv.

The text of this chapter is extracted from the 2018 edition of the *North Carolina Mechanical Code* and has been modified where necessary to conform to the scope of application of the *North Carolina Residential Code for One and Two Family Dwellings*. The section numbers appearing in parentheses after each section number are the section numbers of the corresponding text in the *North Carolina Mechanical Code*.

**M2201.1 Materials.** Supply tanks shall be *listed* and *labeled* and shall conform to UL 58 for underground tanks, UL 142 for above-ground tanks, and UL 80 for indoor tanks.

**M2201.2 (1309.2) Above-ground tanks.** The maximum amount of fuel oil stored above ground or inside of a building shall be 660 gallons (2498 L). The supply tank shall be supported on rigid noncombustible supports to prevent settling or shifting.

**Exception:** The storage of fuel oil, used for space or water heating, above ground or inside buildings in quantities exceeding 660 gallons (2498 L) shall comply with NFPA 31.

**M2201.2.1 (1309.2.1) Tanks within buildings.** Supply tanks for use inside of buildings shall be of such size and shape to permit installation and removal from *dwellings* as whole units. Supply tanks larger than 10 gallons (38 L) shall be placed not less than 5 feet (1524 mm) from any fire or flame either within or external to any fuel-burning *appliance*.

**M2201.2.2 (1309.2.2) Outdoor above-ground tanks.** Tanks installed *outdoors*, above ground shall be *not less than* 5 feet (1524 mm) from an adjoining property line. Such tanks shall be suitably protected from the weather and from physical damage.

**M2201.3 (1309.3) Underground tanks.** Excavations for underground tanks shall not undermine the foundations of existing structures. The clearance from the tank to the nearest wall of a *basement*, pit or property line shall be not less than 1 foot (305 mm). Tanks shall be set on and surrounded with noncorrosive inert materials such as clean earth, sand or gravel well-tamped in place. Tanks shall be covered with not less than 1 foot (305 mm) of earth. Corrosion protection shall be provided in accordance with Section M2203.7.

**M2201.4 (1309.4) Multiple tanks.** Cross connection of two supply tanks shall be permitted in accordance with Section M2203.6.

**M2201.5 (1309.5, 1306.3) Oil gauges.** Inside tanks shall be provided with a device to indicate when the oil in the tank has reached a predetermined safe level. Glass gauges or a gauge subject to breakage that could result in the escape of oil from the tank shall not be used. Liquid-level indicating gauges shall comply with UL 180.

**M2201.6 (1309.6) Flood-resistant installation.** In flood hazard areas as established by Table R301.2, *underground* tanks shall be *installed in accordance with Section R322.2.4 or R322.3.10 anchored to prevent flotation, collapse and lateral movement under conditions of the base flood*. In flood hazard areas as established by Table R301.2, *above-ground* tanks shall be installed at or above the elevation required in Section R322 or shall be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse and lateral movement under conditions of the base flood. Where elevated on platforms, the platforms shall be cantilevered from or knee braced to the building or shall be supported on foundations that conform to the requirements of Section R322.

**M2201.7 (1301.5) Tanks abandoned or removed.** *Outdoor* above-grade fill piping shall be removed when tanks are abandoned or removed. Tank abandonment and removal shall be in accordance with the *International Fire Code*. Tank abandonment and removal shall be in accordance with Section 5704.2.13 of the *International Fire Code*.

**M2202.1 Materials.** Piping shall consist of steel pipe, copper and copper alloy pipe and tubing, steel tubing conforming to ASTM A539, or stainless steel tubing conforming to ASTM A254 or ASTM A269. Aluminum tubing shall not be used between the fuel-oil tank and the burner units.

**M2202.2 Joints and fittings.** Piping shall be connected with standard fittings compatible with the piping material. Cast iron fittings shall not be used for oil piping. Unions requiring gaskets or packings, right or left couplings, and sweat fittings employing solder having a melting point less than 1,000°F (538°C) shall not be used for oil piping. Threaded joints and connections shall be made tight with a lubricant or pipe thread compound.

**M2202.3 Flexible connectors.** Flexible metallic hoses shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 536 and shall be installed in accordance with their listing and labeling and the manufacturer's installation instructions. Connectors made from combustible materials shall not be used inside of buildings or above ground outside of buildings.

**M2202.1 (1302.1) General.** Piping materials shall conform to the standards cited in this section.

**M2202.2 (1302.2) Rated for system.** All materials shall be rated for the operating temperatures and pressures of the system, and shall be compatible with the type of liquid.

**M2202.3 (1302.3) Pipe standards.** Fuel oil pipe shall comply with one of the standards listed in Table M2202.3.

**TABLE M2202.3 (1302.3)  
FUEL OIL PIPING AND FITTINGS**

<b>MATERIAL</b>	<b>STANDARD</b>
Copper or copper-alloy pipe and fittings	ASTM B42; ASTM B43; ASTM B302; ASTM F3226
Copper or copper-alloy tubing and fittings (Type K, L or M)	ASME B16.51; ASTM B75; ASTM B88; ASTM B280; ASTM F3226
Labeled pipe	(See Section 1302.4M2202.4)
Nonmetallic pipe	ASTM D2996
Steel and stainless steel pipe and fittings	ASTM A53; ASTM A106; ASTM A312; ASTM F3226
Steel and stainless steel tubing and fittings	ASTM A254; ASTM A269; ASTM A539; ASTM F3226

**M2202.4 (1302.4) Nonmetallic pipe.** Nonmetallic pipe shall be listed and labeled as being acceptable for the intended application for flammable and combustible liquids. Nonmetallic pipe shall be installed only outside outdoors, underground.

**M2202.5 (1302.5) Fittings and valves.** Fittings and valves shall be approved for the piping systems, and shall be compatible with, or shall be of the same material as, the pipe or tubing.

**M2202.6 (1302.6) Bending of pipe.** Pipe shall be approved for bending. Pipe bends shall be made with approved equipment. The bend shall not exceed the structural limitations of the pipe.

**M2202.7 (1302.7) Pumps.** Pumps that are not part of an appliance shall be of a positive-displacement type. The pump shall automatically shut off the supply when not in operation. Pumps shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 343.

**M2202.8 (1302.8) Flexible connectors and hoses.** Flexible connectors and hoses shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 536 as being acceptable for the intended application for flammable and combustible liquids.

**M2202.9 Piping systems.** Above-ground piping systems shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 1369. Underground piping systems shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 971A.

**M2202.910 (1303.1) Approval.** Joints and connections shall be approved and of a type approved for fuel-oil piping systems. Threaded joints and connections shall be made tight with suitable lubricant or pipe compound. Unions requiring gaskets or packings, right or left couplings, and sweat fittings employing solder having a melting point of less than 1,000°F (538°C) shall not be used in oil lines. Cast-iron fittings shall not be used. Joints and connections shall be tight for the pressure required by test.

**M2202.910.1 (1303.1.1) Joints between different piping materials.** Joints between different piping materials shall be made with approved adapter fittings. Joints between different metallic piping materials shall be made with approved dielectric fittings or brass-copper-alloy converter fittings.

**M2202.1011 (1303.2) Preparation of pipe ends.** Pipe shall be cut square, reamed and chamfered and be free from all burrs and obstructions. Pipe ends shall have full-bore openings and shall not be undercut.

**M2202.4112 (1303.3) Joint preparation and installation.** Where required by Sections M2202.4213 through M2202.18, the preparation and installation of brazed, mechanical, threaded, **press-connect** and welded joints shall comply with Sections M2202.4112.1 through M2202.4112.45.

**M2202.4112.1 (1303.3.1) Brazed joints.** All joint surfaces shall be cleaned. An *approved* flux shall be applied where required. The joints shall be brazed with a filler metal conforming to AWS A5.8.

**M2202.4112.2 (1303.3.2) Mechanical joints.** Mechanical joints shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. **Press connect joints shall conform to one of the standards listed in Table 1302.3.**

**M2202.4112.3 (1303.3.3) Threaded joints.** Threads shall conform to ASME B1.20.1. Pipe-joint compound or tape shall be applied on the male threads only.

**M2202.4112.4 (1303.3.4) Welded joints.** All joint surfaces shall be cleaned by an *approved* procedure. The joint shall be welded with an *approved* filler metal.

**M2202.12.5 Press-connect joints.** *Press-connect joints* shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall conform to one of the standards listed in Table M2203.

**M2202.12 (1303.4) Brass pipe.** Joints between brass pipe or fittings shall be brazed, mechanical, threaded or welded joints complying with Section M2202.11.

**M2202.13 (1303.5) Brass tubing.** Joints between brass tubing or fittings shall be brazed or mechanical joints complying with Section M2202.11.

**M2202.4113 (1303.6) Copper or copper-alloy pipe.** Joints between copper or copper-alloy pipe or fittings shall be brazed, mechanical, threaded, **press-connect** or welded joints complying with Section M2202.4112.

**M2202.4514 (1303.7) Copper or copper-alloy tubing.** Joints between copper or copper-alloy tubing or fittings shall be brazed, or mechanical joints complying with Section M2202.11 or flared joints. **Flared joints shall be made by a tool designed for that operation, or press-connect joints complying with Section M2202.12.**

**M2202.4615 (1303.8) Nonmetallic pipe.** Joints between nonmetallic pipe or fittings shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions for the *labeled* pipe and fittings.

**M2202.4716 (1303.9) Steel and stainless steel pipe.** Joints between steel or stainless steel pipe or fittings shall be threaded, **press-connect** or welded joints complying with Section M2202.4112 or mechanical joints complying with Section M2202.4716.1.

**M2202.4716.1 (1303.9.1) Mechanical joints.** Joints shall be made with an *approved* elastomeric seal. Mechanical joints shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Mechanical joints shall be installed **outside/outdoors**, underground, unless otherwise *approved*.

**M2202.4817 (1303.10) Steel and stainless steel tubing.** Joints between steel or stainless steel tubing or fittings shall be mechanical, **press-connect** or welded joints complying with Section M2202.4112.

**M2202.4918 (1303.11) Piping protection.** Proper allowance shall be made for expansion, contraction, jarring and vibration. Piping other than tubing, connected to underground tanks, except straight fill lines and test wells, shall be provided with flexible connectors, or otherwise arranged to permit the tanks to settle without impairing the tightness of the piping connections.

**M2203.1 General.** Piping shall be installed in a manner to avoid placing stresses on the piping, and to accommodate expansion and contraction of the piping system. **Hanger spacing intervals for piping supports shall be per Table M2101.9.**

**M2203.2 Supply piping.** Supply piping used in the installation of oil burners and *appliances* shall be not smaller than  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch (9 mm) pipe or  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch (9 mm) outside diameter tubing. **Copper tubing and fittings shall be a minimum of Type L or heavier.** The fuel oil system shall be sized for the maximum capacity of fuel oil required. The minimum size of a supply line shall be  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch (9.5 mm) inside diameter nominal pipe or  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch (9.5 mm) outside diameter tubing. The minimum size of a return line shall be  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch (6.4 mm) inside diameter nominal pipe or  $\frac{5}{16}$ -inch (7.9 mm) outside diameter tubing. Copper tubing shall have 0.035-inch (0.9 mm) nominal and 0.032-inch (0.8 mm) minimum wall thickness.

**M2203.2.1 (1305.3) Supply piping installation.** Supply piping shall connect to the top of the fuel oil tank. Fuel oil shall be supplied by a transfer pump or automatic pump or by other *approved* means.

**Exception:** This section shall not apply to inside or above-ground fuel oil tanks.

**M2203.2.2 (1305.4) Return piping.** Return piping shall connect to the top of the fuel oil tank. Valves shall not be installed on return piping.



**M2203.2.3 (1305.5) System pressure.** The system shall be designed for the maximum pressure required by the fuel-oil-burning *appliance*. Air or other gases shall not be used to pressurize tanks.

**M2203.2.4 (1308.1) Testing required.** Fuel oil piping shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 31.

**M2203.2.4.1 (1201.4) Test gauges.** Gauges used for testing shall be as follows:

1. Tests requiring a pressure of 10 pounds per square inch (psi) (69 kPa) or less shall utilize a testing gauge having increments of 0.10 psi (0.69 kPa) or less.
2. Tests requiring a pressure of greater than 10 psi (69 kPa) but less than or equal to 100 psi (689 kPa) shall utilize a testing gauge having increments of 1 psi (6.9 kPa) or less.
3. Tests requiring a pressure of greater than 100 psi (689 kPa) shall utilize a testing gauge having increments of 2 psi (14 kPa) or less.

**M2203.3 (1305.6) Fill piping.** Fill piping shall terminate outside of buildings at a point not less than 2 feet (610 mm) from any building opening at the same or lower level. Fill openings shall be equipped with a tight metal cover.

**M2203.4 (1305.7) Vent piping.** Vent piping shall be not smaller than 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-inch (32 mm) pipe. Vent piping shall be laid to drain toward the tank without sags or traps in which the liquid can collect. Vent pipes shall not be cross connected with fill pipes, lines from burners or overflow lines from auxiliary tanks. The lower end of a vent pipe shall enter the tank through the top and shall extend into the tank not more than 1 inch (25 mm).

**M2203.5 (1305.7) Vent termination.** Vent piping shall terminate outside of buildings at a point not less than 2 feet (610 mm), measured vertically or horizontally, from any building opening. Outer ends of vent piping shall terminate in a weather proof cap or fitting having an unobstructed area at least equal to or greater than the cross sectional area of the vent pipe, and shall be located sufficiently above the ground to avoid being obstructed by snow and ice. Liquid fuel vent pipes shall terminate outside of buildings at a point not less than 2 feet (610 mm) measured vertically or horizontally from any building opening. Outer ends of vent pipes shall terminate in a weatherproof vent cap or fitting or be provided with a weatherproof hood. Vent caps shall have a minimum free open area equal to the cross-sectional area of the vent pipe and shall not employ screens finer than No. 4 mesh. Vent pipes shall terminate sufficiently above the ground to avoid being obstructed with snow or ice. Vent pipes from tanks containing heaters shall be extended to a location where oil vapors discharging from the vent will be readily diffused. If the static head with a vent pipe filled with oil exceeds 10 pounds per square inch (psi) (69 kPa), the tank shall be designed for the maximum static head that will be imposed.

**M2203.6 (1309.7) Cross connection of tanks.** Cross connection of two supply tanks, not exceeding 660 gallons (2498 L) aggregate capacity, with gravity flow from one tank to another, shall be acceptable providing that the two tanks are on the same horizontal plane.

**M2203.7 (1309.8) Corrosion protection.** Underground tanks and buried piping shall be protected by corrosion-resistant coatings or special alloys or fiberglass-reinforced plastic.

**M2203.8 Pipe penetrations.** Openings for pipe penetrations in walls, floors or ceilings shall be larger than the penetrating pipe. Openings through concrete or masonry building elements shall be sleeved. The annular space surrounding pipe penetrations shall be sealed and protected in an *approved* manner in accordance with this code.

**M2204.2 Shutoff valves (1307.1) Building shutoff.** A *readily accessible* manual shutoff valve shall be installed between the oil supply tank and the burner. Such valve shall be provided with *ready access*. Where the shutoff valve is installed in the discharge line of an oil pump, a pressure relief valve shall be incorporated to bypass or return surplus oil. Valves shall comply with UL 842. A shutoff valve shall be installed on the fuel-oil supply line at the entrance to the building. Inside or above-ground tanks are permitted to have valves installed at the tank. The valve shall be capable of stopping the flow of fuel oil to the building or to the *appliance* served where the valve is installed at a tank inside the building. Valves shall comply with UL 842.

**M2204.3 Maximum pressure (1307.2) Appliance shutoff.** Pressure at the oil supply inlet to an *appliance* shall be not greater than 3 pounds per square inch (20.7 kPa). A shutoff valve shall be installed at the connection to each *appliance* where more than one fuel-oil-burning *appliance* is installed.

**M2204.4 Relief valves (1307.3) Pump relief valve.** Fuel oil lines incorporating heaters shall be provided with relief valves that will discharge to a return line when excess pressure exists. A relief valve shall be installed on the pump discharge line where a valve is located downstream of the pump and the pump is capable of exceeding the pressure limitations of the fuel oil system.

**M2204.5 (1307.4) Fuel-oil heater relief valve.** A relief valve shall be installed on the discharge line of fuel-oil-heating *appliances*.

**M2204.6 (1307.5) Relief valve operation.** The relief valve shall discharge fuel oil when the pressure exceeds the limitations of the system. The discharge line shall connect to the fuel oil tank.

### **SECTION M2205 (1306)** **OIL GAUGING**

**M2205.1 (1306.1) Level indication.** Tanks in which a constant oil level is not maintained by an automatic pump shall be equipped with a method of determining the oil level.

**M2205.2 (1306.2) Test wells.** Test wells shall not be installed inside buildings. For *outsideoutdoor* service, test wells shall be equipped with a tight metal cover designed to discourage tampering.

**M2205.3 (1306.3) Inside tanks.** The gauging of inside tanks by means of measuring sticks shall not be permitted. An inside tank provided with fill and vent pipes shall be provided with a device to indicate either visually or audibly at the fill point when the oil in the tank has reached a predetermined safe level.

**M2205.4 (1306.4) Gauging devices.** Gauging devices such as liquid level indicators or signals shall be designed and installed so that oil vapor will not be discharged into a building from the liquid fuel supply system. Liquid-level indicating gauges shall comply with UL 180.

**M2205.5 (1306.5) Gauge glass.** A tank used in connection with any oil burner shall not be equipped with a glass gauge or any gauge *whichthat*, when broken, will permit the escape of oil from the tank.



# CHAPTER 23

## SOLAR THERMAL ENERGY SYSTEMS

### User notes:

— **About this chapter:** Chapter 23 is specific to thermal solar systems and equipment. Solar voltaic systems are not addressed in this chapter. This chapter covers solar collectors, system design, safety devices, relief valves, freeze protection, expansion tanks, signage, labeling, heat transfer fluids, protection of potable water and potable water heating.

— **Code development reminder:** Code change proposals to this chapter will be considered by the IRC—Plumbing/Mechanical Code Development Committee during the 2021 (Group A) Code Development Cycle. See explanation on page iv.

The text of this chapter is extracted from the 2018 edition of the North Carolina Mechanical Code and has been modified where necessary to conform to the scope of application of the North Carolina Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings. The section numbers appearing in parentheses after each section number are the section numbers of the corresponding text in the North Carolina Mechanical Code.

### SECTION M2301

#### SOLAR THERMAL ENERGY SYSTEMS

**M2301.1 (1401.1) General.** This section provides for the design, construction, installation, *alteration* and *repair* of equipment and systems using solar thermal energy to provide space heating or cooling, hot water heating and swimming pool heating.

**M2301.2 Design and installation.** The design and installation of solar thermal energy systems shall comply with Sections M2301.2.1 through M2301.2.13.

**M2301.2.1 Access.** Access shall be provided to solar energy equipment for maintenance. Solar systems and appurtenances shall not obstruct or interfere with the operation of any doors, windows or other building components requiring operation or access. Roof-mounted solar thermal equipment shall not obstruct or interfere with the operation of roof-mounted equipment, *appliances*, chimneys, plumbing vents, roof hatches, smoke vents, skylights and other roof penetrations and openings.

**M2301.2.2.1 Roof-mounted collectors.** The roof shall be constructed to support the loads imposed by roof-mounted solar collectors. Roof-mounted solar collectors that serve as a roof covering shall conform to the requirements for roof coverings in Chapter 9 of this code. Where mounted on or above the roof coverings, the collectors and supporting structure shall be constructed of *noncombustible materials* or fire-retardant-treated wood equivalent to that required for the roof construction.

**M2301.2.2.2 Collector sensors.** Collector sensor installation, sensor location and the protection of exposed sensor wires from *degradation* shall be in accordance with ICC 900/SRCC 300.

**M2301.2.3 Pressure and temperature relief valves and system components.** System components containing fluids shall be protected with temperature and pressure relief valves or pressure relief valves. Relief devices shall be installed in sections of the system so that a section cannot be valved off or isolated from a relief device. Direct systems and the potable water portion of indirect systems shall be equipped with a relief valve in accordance with Section P2804. For indirect systems, pressure relief valves in solar loops shall comply with ICC 900/SRCC 300. System components shall have a working pressure rating of not less than the setting of the pressure relief device.

**M2301.2.4 Vacuum relief.** System components that might be subjected to a vacuum during operation or shutdown shall be *designed to withstand such* a vacuum or shall be protected with vacuum-relief valves.

**M2301.2.6 Protection from freezing.** System components shall be protected from damage resulting from freezing of heat-transfer liquids at the winter design temperature provided in Table R301.2. Freeze protection shall be provided in accordance with ICC 900/SRCC 300. Drain-back systems shall be installed in compliance with Section M2301.2.6.1. Systems utilizing freeze-protection valves shall comply with Section M2301.2.6.2.

**Exception:** Where the 97.5-percent winter design temperature is greater than or equal to 48°F (9°C).

**M2301.2.6.1 Drain-back systems.** Drain-back systems shall be designed and installed to allow for manual gravity draining of fluids from areas subject to freezing to locations not subject to freezing, and air filling of the components and piping. Such piping and components shall maintain a horizontal slope in the direction of flow of not less than 1/4 unit vertical in 12 units horizontal (2-percent slope). Piping and components subject to manual gravity draining shall permit subsequent air filling upon drainage and air venting upon refilling.

**M2301.2.6.2 Freeze-protection valves.** Freeze-protection valves shall discharge in a manner that does not create a hazard or structural damage.

**M2301.2.7 Storage tank sensors.** Storage tank sensors shall comply with ICC 900/SRCC 300.

**M2301.2.8 Expansion tanks.** Expansion tanks in *solar energy systems* shall be installed in accordance with Section M2003 in solar collector loops that contain pressurized heat transfer fluid. Where expansion tanks are used, the system shall be designed in accordance with ICC 900/SRCC 300 to provide an expansion tank that is sized to withstand the maximum operating pressure of the system.

**Exception:** Expansion tanks shall not be required in *the collector loop of drain-back systems*.

**M2301.2.9 Roof and wall penetrations.** Roof and wall penetrations shall be flashed and sealed in accordance with Chapter 9 to prevent entry of water, rodents and insects.

**M2301.2.10 Description and warning labels.** Solar thermal systems shall comply with description *label* and warning *label* requirements of Section M2301.2.11.2 and ICC 900/SRCC 300.

**M2301.2.11.1 Solar loop isolation.** Valves shall be installed to allow the solar *loop* to be isolated from the remainder of the system.

**M2301.2.11.2 Drain and fill valve labels and caps.** Drain and fill valves shall be *labeled* with a description and warning that identifies the fluid in the solar loop and a warning that the fluid might be discharged at high temperature and pressure. Drain caps shall be installed at drain and fill valves.

**M2301.2.12 Maximum temperature limitation.** Systems shall be equipped with means to limit the maximum water temperature of the system fluid entering or exchanging heat with any pressurized vessel inside the *dwelling* to 180°F (82°C). This protection is in addition to the required temperature and pressure-relief valves required by Section M2301.2.3.

**M2301.2.13 Thermal storage unit seismic bracing.** In *Seismic Design Categories* D<sub>0</sub>, D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>2</sub> and in townhouses in Seismic Design Category C, thermal storage units shall be anchored in accordance with Section M1307.2.

**M2301.3.1 Collectors and panels.** Solar thermal collectors and panels shall be *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with ICC 901/SRCC 100. Factory-built collectors shall bear a *label* indicating the manufacturer's name, model number and serial number.

**M2301.3.2 Thermal storage units.** Pressurized *water* storage *tanks* shall bear a *label* indicating the manufacturer's name and address, model number, serial number, storage unit maximum and minimum allowable operating temperatures and *storage unit maximum and minimum allowable operating pressures*. The *label* shall clarify that these specifications apply only to the *water* storage *tanks*.

**M2301.4 Heat transfer *gases* or liquids and heat exchangers.** *Essentially toxic transfer fluids*, ethylene glycol, flammable gases and flammable liquids shall not be used as heat transfer fluids. Heat transfer *gases* and liquids shall be rated to withstand the system's maximum design temperature under operating conditions without degradation. Heat exchangers used in solar thermal systems shall comply with Section P2902.5.2 and ICC 900/SRCC 300.

Heat transfer fluids shall be in accordance with ICC 900/SRCC 300. The flash point of the heat transfer fluids utilized in solar thermal systems shall be not less than 50°F (28°C) above the design maximum nonoperating or no-flow temperature attained by the fluid in the collector.

**M2301.5 ~~(1401.2)~~ Backflow protection.** Connections from the potable water supply to solar systems shall comply with Section P2902.5.5.