

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
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Venting of Elevator Machine Rooms

Code: 2012 North Carolina Building Code
Section: 3006.2

Date: September 1, 2011

Question:

Do branch lines from the building's HVAC system satisfy the requirement for independent ventilation?

Answer:

No. Elevator machine rooms that contain solid state equipment shall be provided with an independent ventilation or air-conditioning system. The purpose of this is to allow the elevator ventilation or air-conditioning system to operate independently of the building's HVAC system in order to keep the elevator equipment within designed operational temperature ranges. Failure or shut down of the building's HVAC system could result in the failure of the elevator equipment thereby trapping occupants within the elevator and/or hampering emergency personnel who may need to use the elevator for rescue or fire-fighting purposes.

The use of a branch line from a building's HVAC system, VAV boxes, or utilization of the building make-up air does not satisfy the requirement of Section 3006.2 for independent venting of elevator machine rooms.