

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
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Auxiliary Drain Pan Size and Location Requirements

Code: 2018 Mechanical Code
Section: 307.2.3(1)

Date: April 28, 2019

Code: 2018 Residential Code
Section: M1411.3.1 (1)

Question:

Does Section 307.2.3(1) require that the auxiliary drain pan be sized three inches larger in overall width and length with respect to the unit or is three inches of clearance required on all sides of the unit?

Answer:

Section 307.2.3(1) only requires that the auxiliary drain pan be sized three inches larger in overall width and length with respect to the unit. The code does not require three inches clearance on each side. The auxiliary drain pan shall be located such that any leakage from the unit housing resulting from primary drain blockage is collected in the auxiliary drain pan.

Follow up Question #1:

When fastened together, as is the case with a residential furnace and cooling coil situated in a horizontal layout, does the drain pan only have to be sized to be under the cooling coil (cased coil), or the cooling coil and the furnace?

Answer:

Under the furnace and cooling coil. Although the miscellaneous cabinet sweating will be primarily over the cased coil section, in the event of primary drain failure, the condensate does not have a designated place to leak to, it will find all paths out of the cased coil and furnace casing which are now fastened together as one unit.

If the coil is remotely located as is sometimes done with commercial systems, the drain pan can be mounted just under the coil section.