

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
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Exhaust Ducts in Plenum Spaces

Code: 2012 Mechanical Code
Section: 601.4

Date: September 1, 2011

Question:

Does the Mechanical Code allow exhaust ducts under negative pressure to be located within a plenum?

Answer:

Yes, Section 601.4 implies that exhaust ducts under negative pressure may be located within a plenum. However, this section explicitly prohibits exhaust ducts under positive pressure, chimneys, and vents to extend into or pass through ducts or plenums. To prevent cross contamination, exhaust ducts under positive pressure and chimneys and vents are not permitted to extend into or pass through ducts or plenums.

An exception has been added to allow sealed exhaust ducts conveying environmental air to be located in a plenum. Examples of environmental air are contained in the definition of environmental air in Section 202.