

# IMC IFGC Ordinance Submittal and Synopsis

Ordinance Title: 2015 International Mechanical Code and 2015 International Fuel Gas Code

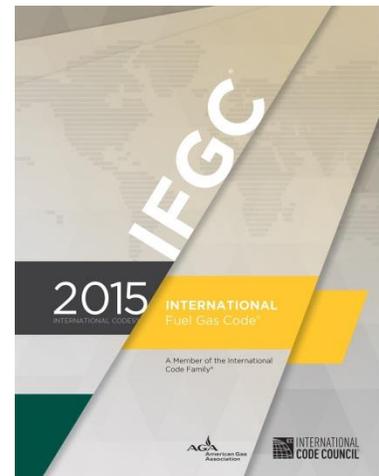
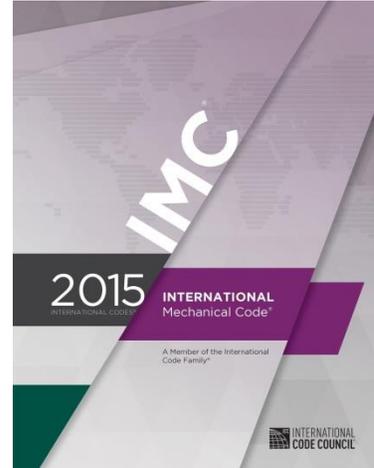
Date:

Section Numbers/Titles: Title XV Land Usage; Chapter 150 Building; Section 150.030 Mechanical and Fuel Gas Code Adopted; Section 150.031 Amendments, additions, and deletions to the 2015 International Mechanical Code; and Section 150.032 Amendments, additions and deletions To the International Fuel Gas Code

First Reading:

Requested Date of Hearing:

Proposed by: Ron Bell  
Chief Building Services Official  
Planning and Building Services



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**Reason:** The attached ordinance proposes to adopt the 2015 International Mechanical Code (IMC) and the 2015 International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC) which is promulgated and published by the International Code Council (ICC). The IMC and IFGC are revised and published in a three year code cycle.

The IMC regulates the design, installation, maintenance, alteration, and inspection of heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning and refrigeration systems that are used to provide control of environmental conditions and related processes within buildings. The IFGC regulates the installation of fuel gas distribution piping and equipment, fuel gas-fired appliances, and fuel gas-fired appliance venting systems.

*Notable national changes from the 2012 to the 2015 IMC and IFGC are as follows:*

**IMC 401.2 Ventilation required.** Occupancies including hospitals, nursing homes, detoxification facilities, and ambulatory care facilities must be ventilated in accordance with a new standard, ASHRAE 170.

**IMC 403.3. Mechanical ventilation.** The new text introduces the basic requirements of ASHRAE 62.2 relating to mechanical ventilation for apartments and dwelling units to include requirements for inclusion of mechanical exhaust and supply for each dwelling unit.

**IMC 504.5 Dryer exhaust power ventilators.** The new text recognizes dryer exhaust power ventilators (DEDPV's) for installations that exceed the allowable exhaust duct length for clothes dryers.

**IMC 505.3 Domestic kitchen exhaust systems.** New text regulates the design and construction of exhaust shafts that serve domestic kitchen exhaust systems on multistory buildings.

**IMC 514.2 Energy recovery ventilation systems.** Energy Recovery Systems (EVRs) of the coil-type exchanger are no longer limited in their application.

**IMC 601.5 Return air openings.** Return air openings have been rewritten to eliminate confusing text and clarify the actual intent.

**IMC 602.1 Plenums limited to one fire area.** This revision clarifies that a plenum in a fire area cannot be connected to a plenum in an adjoining fire area by means of transfer ducts, regardless of the presence of fire dampers.

**IMC 602.2 Plenum construction.** Plenums are no longer dependent on construction types. All plenums reverts back to having a maximum flame spread of 25 and smoke developed rating of 50.

**IFGC 307.6 A/C condensation pumps.** Condensation pumps located in attics, crawl spaces and other uninhabited spaces must have controls that shut down the appliance upon failure of the pumping system.

**IFGC 404.7 Protection against physical damage.** Provisions added to protect concealed piping from penetration by nails, screws, and other fasteners.

**IFGC 503.8 Venting system termination location.** Text has been added to no longer allow a neighbor's furnace vent termination to point toward an adjoining building unless the opening in the adjoining building is at least 10 feet away.

**The majority of local modifications to the 2015 IMC and IFGC carry over the same provisions from the 2012 IMC and IFGC. Notable local ordinances or modifications to the 2015 IMC and IFGC are as follows:**

**IMC [A] 106.4.3 Expiration.** This eliminates the maximum time period for a homeowner mechanical permit of two years. Instead the mechanical homeowners permit expires the same as the building permit, which mandates an inspection by any of the divisions of building services within 180 days to keep the permit open.

**IMC/IFGC 304.11 Guards.** This new provision of the 2015 IMC allows fall restraint/anchorage connector devices as an alternate to a guard. The mechanical board's consensus was that such fall restraint devices are impractical use at rooftop HVAC equipment and that the nature of the servicing makes it impractical to utilize a restraining harness.

**IMC/IFGC 306.2 Appliances in rooms.** This new local amendment clarifies that the passageway to the appliance must extend to the actual service area of the appliance, not just to the appliance.

**IMC 403.3.2.1 Outdoor air for dwelling units.** The provisions for whole house ventilation in apartments have been locally revised to account cold climate conditions that the IMC does not address.

**IMC 501.3.1 Location of exhaust outlets.** For clarification, where a heat recovery ventilator (HRV) or an energy recovery ventilator (ERV) is installed, the manufacturer's installation instructions, not a general provision of the mechanical code, defines the location of the intake and exhaust outlets based on the UL listing, and the engineered tested and designed pieces of equipment.

**IMC 507.2.6 Clearances for Type I hood.** The IMC does not recognize reduced clearance hoods, but the new UL 710 standard recognizes and specifies a 0 clearance for Type I hoods.

