

PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL
INTERPRETATION MANUAL



CODE: 2000 IECC

DATE:

CODE REF: Section 503.3.3.4.3

11/5/2003

SUBJECT: Duct Tape

Question: Is all duct tape a disapproved material for the sealing of ducts?

Answer: No, Section 503.3.3.4.3 states the following:

E503.3.3.4.3 Sealing required. Tapes and mastics used with rigid fibrous glass ducts shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 181A. Tapes and mastics used with flexible air ducts shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 181B. **"Duct tape" is not permitted as a sealant on any ducts.**

E803.2.8 Duct and plenum insulation and sealing.

All 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, or tapes. Tapes and mastics used to seal ductwork shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 181A or UL 181B. Duct connections to flanges of air distribution system equipment shall be sealed and mechanically fastened. **Duct tape is not permitted as a sealant on any metal ducts.**

Both of these sections state that duct tape is not an approved material for the sealing of duct. These statements should not be misunderstood to exclude duct tapes that have been listed and labeled in accordance with UL 181A or B. This exclusion regarding duct tape could be better stated this way **"Un-Listed and labeled" Duct tape is not permitted as a sealant on any type for environmental air ducts.**

In previous discussions regarding this subject, it was stated that "duct tape" could no longer be used as a sealer for duct. Like the aforementioned code sections, clarification of that statement would have revealed that statement was only to be applied to unlisted duct tape.

SIGNATURE: *Lonnie Erwin,*
Chief Plumbing and Mechanical Inspector
City of Dallas