

PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL
INTERPRETATION MANUAL



CODE: 2003 IMC

DATE:

CODE REF: 602.2.1

12/10/2007

SUBJECT: Materials exposed within plenums

The IMC requires materials exposed within plenums to be rated 25/50 fire and smoke when tested in accordance with ASTM E 84. Prior to the adoption of the International codes the Uniform codes did not define residential and commercial in the same way as the I-Codes. The IRC is to be used for construction on One and Two family dwellings. Multi-family structures must follow the IMC which requires that materials exposed within plenums must comply with 25/50 requirement. The Commentary states that building systems (mechanical, electrical and plumbing) may be installed in the plenum in limited qualities. Material used in the building systems may be used long as the plenum is only serves a single dwelling unit and with limited exposure to air stream as possible without complying with the 25/50 requirement.

602.2.1 Materials exposed within plenums.

Except as required by Sections 602.2.1.1 through 602.2.1.5, materials exposed within plenums shall be noncombustible or shall have a flame spread index of not more than 25 and a smoke-developed index of not more than 50 when tested in accordance with ASTM E 84.

Exceptions:

1. Rigid and flexible ducts and connectors shall conform to Section 603.
2. Duct coverings, linings, tape and connectors shall conform to Sections 603 and 604.
3. This section shall not apply to materials exposed within plenums in one- and two-family dwellings.
4. This section shall not apply to smoke detectors.
5. Combustible materials enclosed in approved gypsum board assemblies or enclosed in materials listed and labeled for such application.

SIGNATURE: *Lonnie Erwin,*

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