The following sections, paragraphs, and sentences of the *2021 International Mechanical Code* (IMC) are hereby amended as follows: Standard type is text from the IMC. <u>Underlined type is text inserted.</u> <u>Lined</u> through type is deleted text from the IMC.

<u>Note</u>: Historically the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has limited Chapter 1 amendments in order to allow each city to insert their local policies and procedures. We now have suggested certain items to be brought to the attention of cities considering adoption of the code that may be of concern to several jurisdictions. It is still intended to be discretionary to each city to determine which Chapter 1 amendments to include.

Section 102.8; change to read as follows:

102.8 Referenced Codes and Standards. The codes and standards referenced herein shall be those that are listed in Chapter 15 and such codes, when specifically adopted, and standards shall be considered part of the requirements of this code to the prescribed extent of each such reference and as further regulated in Sections 102.8.1 and 102.8.2.

Exception: Where enforcement of a code provision would violate the conditions of the listing of the equipment or appliance, the conditions of the listing and the manufacturer's installation instructions shall apply.

102.8.1 Conflicts. Where <u>conflicts</u> <u>differences</u> occur between provisions of this code and the referenced standards, the provisions of this code shall apply. <u>Whenever amendments have been adopted to the referenced codes and standards, each reference to said code and standard shall be considered to reference the adopted amendments. Any reference to NFPA 70 shall mean the National Electrical Code as adopted.</u>

(Reason: Legal wording to recognize locally adopted codes and amendments adopted with referenced codes.)

Section 106.4; amend by adding Sections 106.4.8 and 106.4.9 to read as follows:

106.4.8 Fee schedule. Fees for the issuance of permits and performance of inspections as required by this code shall be as established from time to time by resolution of the Town Council and set forth in the Town's Fee Schedule

106.4.9 Fee refunds. The building official shall establish a policy for authorizing the refunding of fees.

Section 306.3; change to read as follows:

306.3 Appliances in Attics. Attics containing *appliances* shall be provided with an opening and unobstructed passageway large enough to allow removal of the largest *appliance*. The passageway shall be not less than 30 inches (762 mm) high and 22 inches (559 mm) wide and not more than 20 feet (6096 mm) in length measured along the centerline of the passageway from the opening to the *appliance*. The passageway shall have continuous solid flooring not less than 24 inches (610 mm) wide. A level service space not less than 30 inches (762 mm) deep and 30 inches (762 mm) wide shall be present at the front or service side of the *appliance*. The clear access opening dimensions shall be not less than a minimum of 20 inches by 30 inches (508 mm by 762 mm), <u>or larger where such dimensions are not large enough to allow removal of the largest appliance</u>, shall have continuous solid flooring with a minimum thickness of 1/2" plywood or 5/8" wafer board, and shall be placed over a load bearing wall or with engineered approval. A walkway to an appliance shall be rated as a floor as approved by the building official. and large enough to allow removal of the largest *appliance*. As a minimum, for access to the attic space, provide one of the following:

- 1. <u>A permanent stair.</u>
- 2. <u>A pull-down stair with a minimum 300 lbs. (136 kg) capacity.</u>

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- 3. <u>An access door from an upper floor level.</u>
- 4. <u>Access Panel may be used in lieu of items 1, 2, and 3 with prior approval of the code official due to building conditions.</u>

Exceptions:

- 1. The passageway and level service space are not required where the *appliance* is capable of being serviced and removed through the required opening.
- 2. Where the passageway is unobstructed and not less than 6 feet (1829 mm) high and 22 inches (559 mm) wide for its entire length, the passageway shall be not greater than 50 feet (15 250 mm) in length.

A receptacle outlet shall be provided at or near the equipment and appliance location within 25 feet and in accordance with the Electrical Code.

(Reason: To provide a safe means of accessibility to appliances in attics and to allow for different types of construction limitations. Consistent with regional amendment to International Fuel and gas Code (IFGC) 306.3.)

Section 306.5; change to read as follows:

306.5 Equipment and Appliances on Roofs or Elevated Structures. Where *equipment* requiring access or *appliances* are located on an elevated structure or the roof of a building such that personnel will have to climb higher than 16 feet (4877 mm) above grade to access such *equipment* or *appliances*, an interior or exterior means of access shall be provided. Exterior ladders providing roof access need not extend closer than 12 feet (2438 mm) to the finish grade or floor level below and shall extend to the equipment and appliances' level service space. Such access shall not require climbing over obstructions greater than 30 inches (762 mm) in height or walking on roofs having a slope greater than four 4 units vertical in 12 units horizontal (33-percent slope). Such access shall not require the use of portable ladders. Where access involves climbing over parapet walls, the height shall be measured to the top of the parapet wall.

Permanent ladders installed to provide the required access shall comply with the following minimum design criteria:

- 1. The side railing shall extend above the parapet or roof edge not less than 30 inches (762 mm).
- 2. Ladders shall have rung spacing not to exceed 14 inches (356 mm) on center. The uppermost rung shall be not greater than 24 inches (610 mm) below the upper edge of the roof hatch, roof, or parapet, as applicable.
- 3. Ladders shall have a toe spacing not less than 6 inches (152 mm) deep.
- 4. There shall be not less than 18 inches (457 mm) between rails.
- 5. Rungs shall have a diameter not less than 0.75-inch (19.1 mm) and capable of withstanding a 300-pound (136 kg) load.
- 6. Ladders over 30 feet (9144 mm) in height shall be provided with offset sections and landings capable of withstanding 100 pounds per square foot (488 kg/m²). Landing dimensions shall be not less than 18 inches (457 mm) and not less than the width of the ladder served. A guard rail shall be provided on all open sides of the landing.
- 7. Climbing clearance. The distance from the centerline of the rungs to the nearest permanent object on the climbing side of the ladder shall be not less than 30 inches (762 mm) measured perpendicular to the rungs. This distance shall be maintained from the point of ladder access to the bottom of the roof hatch. A minimum clear width of 15 inches (381 mm) shall be provided on both sides of the ladder measured from the midpoint of and parallel with the rungs except where cages or wells are installed.
- 8. Landing required. The ladder shall be provided with a clear and unobstructed bottom landing area having a minimum dimension of 30 inches (762 mm) by 30 inches (762 mm) centered in front of the ladder.

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- 9. Ladders shall be protected against corrosion by *approved* means.
- 10. Access to ladders shall be provided at all times.

Catwalks installed to provide the required access shall be not less than 24 inches (610 mm) wide and shall have railings as required for service platforms.

Exception: This section shall not apply to Group R-3 occupancies.

A receptacle outlet shall be provided at or near the equipment and appliance location within 25 feet and in accordance with the Electrical Code.

(Reason: To assure access to roof appliances and provide options to not extend exterior ladders to grade. Consistent with IFGC amendments.)

Section 306.5.1; change to read as follows:

306.5.1 Sloped Roofs. Where appliances, equipment, fans or other components that require service are installed on a roof having a slope of three units vertical in 12 units horizontal (25-percent slope) or greater and having an edge more than 30 inches (762 mm) above grade at such edge, a level platform shall be provided on each side of the appliance or equipment to which access is required for service, repair, or maintenance a catwalk at least 16 inches in width with substantial cleats spaced not more than 16 inches apart shall be provided from the roof access to a level platform at the appliance. The level platform shall be provided on each side of the appliance to which access is required for service, repair, or maintenance. The platform shall be not less than 30 inches (762 mm) in any dimension and shall be provided with guards. The guards shall extend not less than 42 inches (1067 mm) above the platform, shall be constructed so as to prevent the passage of a 21-inch-diameter (533 mm) sphere and shall comply with the loading requirements for guards specified in the International Building Code. Access shall not require walking on roofs having a slope greater than 4 units vertical in 12 units horizontal (33-percent slope). Where access involves obstructions greater than 30 inches (762 mm) in height, such obstructions shall be provided with ladders installed in accordance with Section 306.5 or stairways installed in accordance with the requirements specified in the International Building Code in the path of travel to and from appliances, fans, or equipment requiring service.

(Reason: To assure safe access to roof appliances. Consistent with IFGC amendments.)

Section 306.6; change to read as follows:

306.6 Water Heaters Above Ground or Floor. When the mezzanine or platform in which a water heater is installed is more than eight (8) feet (2438 mm) above the ground or floor level, it shall be made accessible by a stairway or permanent ladder fastened to the building.

Exception: A maximum 10-gallon water heater (or larger with approval) is capable of being accessed through a lay-in ceiling, and the water heater installed is not more than ten (10) feet (3048 mm) above the ground or floor level and may be reached with a portable ladder.

306.6.1 Inadequate Lighting at Location. Whenever the mezzanine or platform is not adequately lighted or access to a receptacle outlet is not obtainable for the main level, lighting and a receptacle outlet shall be provided in accordance with Section 306.3.1.

(Reason: To provide safe access to water heaters and to provide lighting and receptacle for maintenance of equipment. Consistent with regional amendments to IFGC 306.7 and International Plumbing Code (IPC) 502.5.)

Section 307.2.3; amend item 2 to read as follows:

2. A separate overflow drain line shall be connected to the drain pan provided with the *equipment*. Such overflow drain shall discharge to a conspicuous point of disposal to alert occupants in the event of a

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stoppage of the primary drain. The overflow drain line shall connect to the drain pan at a higher level than the primary drain connection. <u>However, the conspicuous point shall not create a hazard such as dripping over a walking surface or other areas so as to create a nuisance.</u>

(Reason: Greater specificity in prohibited locations for condensate discharge. Consistent with regional amendment to IPC 314.2.1.)

Section 403.2.1; add an item 5 to read as follows:

5. <u>Toilet rooms within private dwellings that contain only a water closet, lavatory, or combination</u> <u>thereof may be ventilated with an *approved* mechanical recirculating fan or similar device designed to remove odors from the air.</u>

(Reason: Consistent with common regional practice. Consistent with regional amendment to International Residential Code (IRC) R303.3.)

Section 501.3; add an exception to read as follows:

501.3 Exhaust Discharge. The air removed by every mechanical exhaust system shall be discharged outdoors at a point where it will not cause a public nuisance and not less than the distances specified in Section 501.3.1. The air shall be discharged to a location from which it cannot again be readily drawn in by a ventilating system. Air shall not be exhausted into an attic, crawl space, or be directed onto walkways.

Exceptions:

- 1. Whole-house ventilation-type attic fans shall be permitted to discharge into the attic space of *dwelling units* having private attics.
- 2. Commercial cooking recirculating systems.
- 3. Where installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and where mechanical or *natural ventilation* is otherwise provided in accordance with Chapter 4, *listed* and *labeled* domestic ductless range hoods shall not be required to discharge to the outdoors.
- 4. <u>Toilet room exhaust ducts may terminate in a warehouse or shop area when infiltration of outside air is present.</u>

(Reason: Provide a reasonable alternative in areas where a large volume of outside air is present.)

Section 505.1; change to read as follows:

505.1 General. Domestic cooking exhaust *equipment* shall comply with the requirements of this section. All domestic cooking exhaust equipment ventilation shall be made vertical through the roof and shall not be permitted horizontal.

Section 506.1; change to read as follows:

506.1 General. Commercial kitchen hood ventilation ducts and exhaust *equipment* shall comply with the requirements of this section. Commercial kitchen grease ducts shall be designed for the type of cooking *appliance* and hood served. All commercial cooking exhaust equipment ventilation shall be made vertical through the roof and shall not be permitted horizontal. Type I and Type II hoods.

Section 603.6.1.1; change to read as follows:

603.6.1.1 Duct length. Flexible air ducts shall not be limited in length. Flexible air ducts shall be a maximum of 5' (feet) and are required to have 1" (inch) solid metal straps and 6" (inch) metal saddles.

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Section 607.5.1; change to read as follows:

607.5.1 Fire Walls. Ducts and air transfer openings permitted in fire walls in accordance with Section 706.11 of the *International Building Code* shall be protected with *listed* fire dampers installed in accordance with their listing. For hazardous exhaust systems, see Section 510.1-510.9 IMC.

(Reason: Correspond with un-amended IBC 710.7.)

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