

Scope: The International Mechanical Code (IMC) regulates the design, installation, and maintenance of mechanical systems that provide heating, ventilation, and air conditioning. For municipalities, the IMC ensures that mechanical systems operate safely, efficiently, and reliably to maintain healthy indoor environments. By adopting the IMC, a city provides consistent standards for system performance, energy conservation, and occupant comfort while reducing risks associated with improper installation or operation.

Significant Changes (including changes made in the 2021 version and the 2024 version, noted in parentheses on which year the change took effect):

The intent of the content below is not intended to capture each change to the text of the code for all items related to restructuring or moving content, updates to definitions/clarifications, or minor provisions with insignificant impact. More context can be provided upon request for any of the changes that have occurred in each of the code editions.

Chapter 1 Scope and Administration

- Included in an overall reformat of Section 104 regulating duties of the code official, the approach for reviewing for code compliance has been significantly updated to reflect the current manner in which alternate materials, designs and methods are evaluated (2024).

Chapter 2 Definitions

[No significant changes]

Chapter 3 General Regulations

- Clarification on permitted ways to dispose of condensate (2021).
- New requirements for minimum landing at roof hatches (2024).

Chapter 4 Ventilation

- Minor modifications to minimum ventilation rates and calculation methods (2021 & 2024).

Chapter 5 Exhaust Systems

- New requirements for clothes dryer exhaust termination locations (2021).
- Provisions for the use of domestic range hoods in Group I-1 and I-2 occupancies are added (2024).
- New requirements for Type I hood exhaust systems to not cause negative pressure for other fuel-burning appliances attempting to exhaust gases (2024).

Chapter 6 Duct Systems.

- Minor modifications to update regulations concerning duct systems and plenums (2024).

Chapter 7 Combustion Air

[No significant changes]

Chapter 8 Chimneys and Vents

[No significant changes]

Chapter 9 Specific Appliances, Fireplaces and Solid Fuel-Burning Equipment

[No significant changes]

Chapter 10 Boilers, Water Heaters and Pressure Vessels

[No significant changes]

Chapter 11 Refrigeration

- Updates to the refrigerant regulations, specifically to A2L and ammonia including labeling and building structure protection from explosion (2024).

Chapter 12 Hydronic Piping

[No significant changes]

Chapter 13 Fuel Oil Piping and Storage

[No significant changes]

Chapter 14 Solar Thermal Systems

[No significant changes]

Chapter 15 Referenced Standards

- Nearly all referenced standards have had an updated edition since 2018.