International Mechanical Code (IMC) 2006 – 2012 Significant Changes

Section /Topic	Type	2006	2009	2012	Comments
International Mechanical Code					
102.3 Maintenance	**M**			ASHREA/ACCA/ANSI Standard 180is now specified for maintenance of an HVAC system	
103.2/103.3/103.4 Appointment, Deputies, Liability	**M**		Clarifies the appointment of the code official and protects against liability uniformly through the I-Codes		
106.4.7 Previous Approvals	**A**		A new or revised permit is not required for projects where the scope of work exceeds 180 days		
107.1/107.2/107.4/107.6 Inspection and Testing	**A/M**		A number of changes have been made to the administrative provisions related to inspections		
110 Temporary Equipment, Systems, and Uses	**A**		Provides provisions to deal with mechanical systems in temporary structures		
202 Environmental Air	**C**			The definition of *environmental air* has been expanded through the addition of parking garage exhaust	
304.6 Public Garages	**M**		In public garages the distance from appliance to floor is now determined by the height of the vehicle entry door		
Section /Topic	Type	2006	2009	2012	Comments
International Mechanical Code					
304.10 Clearance from Grade for Appliances	**M**		A min. clearance has been established for ground supported equipment		
306.5 Equipment and Appliances on Roofs or Elevated Structures	**C/M**		Clarifies how the height of the equipment is to be measured when access involves climbing over the parapet	Clarifies that a permanent access to equipment and appliances on roof or elevated structures	

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307.2.2/307.2.2 (Table) Condensate Drain Sizing	**A**		The code now specifies a specific pipe size based on the refrigeration capacity		
308.5 Labeled Assemblies	**M**			Allowable clearance reductions must now be based on listed and labeled reduced-clearance	
404.1 & 501.1 Ventilation and Exhaust Systems - Scope	**M**		Clarifies the application of chapters 4 & 5 to ventilation and exhaust systems		
404.1 Enclosed Parking Garages				Mechanical ventilation systems in parking garages are now permitted to be operated automatically by carbon monoxide detectors	
401.4 Intake Opening Location	**M**			Min. clearance between an air intake opening and any public way is measured from the opening to the lot line	

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International Mechanical Code					
403 Mechanical Ventilation	**M**		Substantial revisions that will alter airflow requirements and the way they are calculated		
403.3 (Table) Minimum Ventilation Rates for Nail Salons	**M**			Nail stations in nail salons must now each be provided with a source capture system	
403.3.1 Zone Outdoor Airflow	**M**		The method for calculating the min. outdoor airflow has been revised		
403.3/403.3 (Table) Outdoor Airflow Rate	**M**			The table has been revised to reflect the new airflow calculations	

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403.3.2 System Outdoor Airflow	**M**		When a single ventilation system serves more than 1 zone, the design parameters may result in overventilation of one zone. To compensate, the code allows outdoor air intake flow rate to average the outdoor air intake for all zones		
501.2/506.4 Independent Exhaust Systems Required	**M**			Those locations where an independent exhaust system is required are now established in a single code provision	
501.3 Pressure Equalization	**M**		This section will allow R-2 occupancies the same exemptions as R-3 in maintain a neutral or neg. pressure		
Section /Topic	Type	2006	2009	2012	Comments
International Mechanical Code					
504.6 Domestic Clothes Dryer Ducts	**M**		Extensively revised this section. Dryer duct length was 25' and changed to 35', also clarifies duct material and installation		
504.8 Common Exhaust Systems for Clothes Dryer Multi-Story Structures	**A**		Due to length limitations for dryer exhaust this new section provides specific requirements for multiple dryers to be gathered in a common shaft		
505.1 Domestic Kitchen Exhaust Systems	**M**			Domestic kitchen exhaust ducts are now required to be independent of all other exhaust	
505.2 Domestic Kitchen Exhaust Makeup Air	**A**		Establishes max. exhaust limit for domestic kitchen exhaust systems before makeup air is required		
506.3.7.1 Grease Reservoirs	**A**			Criteria are now provided for the construction of a grease reservoir in a grease duct system	
506.3.8 Grease Duct Cleanouts and Other Openings	**D/M**		Access doors may now be allowed the use of tools to open the access door	For grease duct cleanouts, gasket and sealing materials on grease duct doors must be rated at a min. of 1500°F	

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506.3.9 Grease Duct Horizontal Cleanouts	**M**				

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506.3.10 Grease Duct Enclosures	**M**		Clarifies the application of the provision for grease duct enclosure into 3 separate sections depending on the enclosure		
506.3.10 Underground Grease Duct Installations	**A**			Underground grease ducts are now regulated based on new provisions	
506.3.11.2 Field-Applied Grease Duct Enclosures	**C**			Field-applied grease duct enclosure systems are specifically prohibited to reduce clearance from combustibles	
506.4.2 Type II Terminations	**A**		Provides a termination requirement for Type II commercial kitchen hood exhaust, which was previously not addressed		
507.2 Type I or Type II Hood Required	**M**			Type I or Type II commercial kitchen hoods are not required for appl. With integral downdraft exhaust systems	
507.2.1 Type I Hoods	**M**			Type I hoods no longer required for complying electric appl. Are being used	
507.2.1/507.2.2 Type I and Type II Hoods	**M**		This revision eliminates the reference to specific appliances and replaces the by tying the provision to the defined term of light-, medium-, heavy-, and extra-heavy-duty cooking appliance		

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507.2.1.1 Operation of Type I Hoods	**M**			A method requiring the pilot burner to stay on a gas cooking appliance when the kitchen exhaust fan interlock shuts off	
507.2.1.2 Exhaust Flow Rate Label of Type I Hoods	**A**			On listed Type I commercial cooking hoods are now required to provide a label with the min. exhaust air flow rate	
507.2.2 Type II Hoods	**M**			Type II hoods are required to be installed above appliances that produce products of combustion but not grease or smoke	
507.9 Clearance for Type I Hood	**A**		Cementitious wallboard has been added to the exception for clearances from Type I hood		
507.10 Hoods Penetrating a Ceiling	**A**			Field-applied grease duct enclosures are now prohibited from being used over the top of a Type I hoods	
510.7 Fire Suppression Required for Hazardous Exhaust Ducts	**M**			Automatic fire suppression is no longer required in exhaust ducts in semiconductor fabricated facilities	
601.4 Contamination Prevention in Plenums	**M**			Chimneys and vents are now permitted to pass through a plenum where in compliance with one of three new allowances	

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602.2.1 Materials within Plenums	**C**			Any material or assembly within a plenum must be noncombustible, gypsum board, or listed and labeled	
603.4.1 Minimum Fasteners	**A**		Adds a required method of joining round metal pipe with at least three screws		

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603.7 Rigid Duct Penetrations	**M**			Only those ducts that penetrate a wall or ceiling between the dwelling and adjacent private garage need to comply with Sec. 603.7	
603.9 Duct Joints, Seams, and Connections	**C**			Unlisted duct tape is no longer permitted as a sealant on nonmetallic ducts	
603.17/202 Air Dispersion Systems	**A**			Air dispersion systems are now permitted to be installed	
606.4.1 Smoke Detection System Supervision	**C**		Smoke detectors used for air distribution systems are only required to be connected to a fire alarm system if the alarm system is required by the IFC		
607.5 Dampers for Duct and Air Transfer Openings/Where Required	**A/M**		Changes in the IBC and carried over to the IMC to coordinate the requirements to address the damper requirements for certain locations that were not previously addressed		

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701.1 Combustion Air	**M/D**		Sec. 701.2 through 710.1 and three definitions of sec. 202 have been deleted without substitution. The remaining sec. 701.1 references the combustion air requirements for solid fuel burning appliances and NFPA 31 for oil-fired appliances		
801.18.4/801.18.4.1/801.20 Chimneys and Vents	**M**		Masonry chimneys that do not have required air space and clearance to combustibles, the use and application of the liner systems evaluated with UL 1777 have been clarified.		
805.3 Factory-Built Chimney Offsets	**A**			The max. offsets in a factory-built chimney is now specified and the number of offsets has been limited	

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901.4 Fireplace Accessories	**A**			Fireplace accessories must now comply with UL 907	
918.6 Prohibited Sources of Outdoor or Return Air for Forced-Air Warm-Air Furnaces	**M**		Unconditioned attics and crawl spaces are now specifically prohibited as a source of outdoor or return air for forced-air heating systems		
928 Evaporative Cooling Equipment	**A**			Requirements for the installation of evaporative coolers have been added to the IMC in a new Sec. 928	

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1101.10 Locking Access Port Caps	**A/M**		Requires refrigerant access ports that are located outdoors to be equipped with a locking cap	Locking caps are no longer required on refrigerant access ports if the equipment is located in a secure location	
1103.1 (Table) Refrigerant Classification	**A/M**		The table was updated to include many new refrigerant types and to modify some of the values for the permitted types		
1104.2.2 Industrial Occupancies and Refrigerated Rooms	**M**		Excludes electrical equipment and appliances in areas using ammonia refrigerants from having to comply with the "hazardous location"		
1105.6/1105.6.3 Machinery Room Ventilation	**M**			The min. ventilation rates in ammonia machinery rooms must now be in accordance with IIAR2	
1106.4 Flammable Refrigerants	**M**			The ventilation requirements for ammonia machinery rooms are now mandatory in order to be exempt from the Class 1	
1107.2 Refrigerant Piping Locations	**A**		Provides guidance for the installation and location of refrigerant piping not previously addressed in the IMC		

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1209.5 Thermal Barrier Required	**A**		Hydronic radiant floor heating systems now require insulation installed below the piping or tubing		

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