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PREFACE

Internationally, code officials recognize the need for a modern, up-to-date mechanical code addressing the design and installation of mechanical systems through requirements emphasizing performance. The *International Mechanical Code* is designed to meet these needs through model code regulations that safeguard the public health and safety in all communities, large and small.

The principal purpose of this is to provide a basic volume of knowledge and facts relating to the code. The Commentary provides it in a small package and at reasonable cost through coverage of many issues likely to be dealt with when using the *International Mechanical Code*—and then supplements that coverage with historical and technical background.

Throughout all of this, effort has been made to keep the vast quantity of material accessible and its method of presentation useful. With a comprehensive yet concise summary of each section, the Commentary is a convenient reference for mechanical regulations. In the chapters that follow, discussions focus on the full meaning and implications of the code text. Guidelines suggest the most effective method of application and the consequences of not adhering to the code text. Illustrations are provided to aid understanding; they do not necessarily illustrate the only methods of achieving code compliance.

The format of the Commentary includes the full text of each section, table and figure in the code, followed immediately by the applicable commentary to that text. Each section's narrative includes a statement of its objective and intent, and usually includes a discussion about why the requirement commands the conditions set forth. Code text and commentary text are easily distinguished from each other. All code text is shown as it appears in the *International Mechanical Code*. All commentary is indented below the code text, accompanied by a “C” icon and vertical line.

Readers should note that the Commentary is to be used in conjunction with the *International Mechanical Code* and not as a substitute for the code. The Commentary is advisory only; the code official alone possesses the authority and responsibility for interpreting the code.

Comments and recommendations are encouraged, for through your input, we can improve future editions. Please direct your comments to customersuccess@iccsafe.org.

For the complete errata history of this code, please visit: https://www.iccsafe.org/errata-central/

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1	SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION	1-1 – 1-26
CHAPTER 2	DEFINITIONS	2-1 – 2-34
CHAPTER 3	GENERAL REGULATIONS	3-1 – 3-46
CHAPTER 4	VENTILATION	4-1 – 4-40
CHAPTER 5	EXHAUST SYSTEMS	5-1 – 5-140
CHAPTER 6	DUCT SYSTEMS	6-1 – 6-78
CHAPTER 7	COMBUSTION AIR	7-1 – 7-4
CHAPTER 8	CHIMNEYS AND VENTS	8-1 – 8-32
CHAPTER 9	SPECIFIC APPLIANCES, FIREPLACES AND SOLID FUEL-BURNING EQUIPMENT	9-1 – 9-22
CHAPTER 10	BOILERS, WATER HEATERS AND PRESSURE VESSELS	10-1 – 10-24
CHAPTER 11	REFRIGERATION	11-1 – 11-40
CHAPTER 12	HYDRONIC PIPING	12-1 – 12-32
CHAPTER 13	FUEL OIL PIPING AND STORAGE	13-1 – 13-10
CHAPTER 14	SOLAR THERMAL SYSTEMS	14-1 – 14-14
CHAPTER 15	REFERENCED STANDARDS	15-1 – 15-16
APPENDIX A	CHIMNEY CONNECTOR PASS-THROUGHS	A-1 – A-2
APPENDIX B	RECOMMENDED PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE	B-1 – B-2
APPENDIX C	BOARD OF APPEALS	C1 – C4
APPENDIX D	CLEAN AIR DELIVERY	D1-D2
APPENDIX E	CLEAN AIR DELIVERY AND MONITORING	E1-E2
INDEX		INDEX-1 – INDEX-4