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## Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Building and Construction Department

### **Attention Contractors:**

There are several important changes that we all need to be aware of with the adoption of the 2015 International Residential Code (IRC) regarding the Mechanical chapters.

**Chapter 15 (IRC): Section 1502.4.4 – Dryer Exhaust Power Ventilators.** The code now recognizes the use of dryer exhaust duct power ventilators (DEDPVs) to increase the allowable exhaust duct length for clothes dryers.

**Chapter 15 (IRC): Section 1502.4.6 – Length Identification.** A permanent label identifying the concealed length of the dryer duct is no longer required where the equivalent length does not exceed 35 feet. For dryer exhaust exceeding 35', a label or tag is required whether the duct is concealed or not.

**Chapter 15 (IRC): Section 1503.4 – Makeup Air Required.** Automatic operation of a mechanical damper is no longer required for supplying makeup air for kitchen exhaust systems exceeding a rating of 400 cubic feet per minute (cfm). Transfer openings are permitted to obtain makeup air from rooms other than the kitchen.

**Chapter 16 (IRC): Section 1601.1.1.1 – Above-Ground Duct Systems.** The list of duct system requirements has been revised to reference the applicable standards and delete redundant language. The table for material thickness of metal ducts was replaced with what is currently consistent with the SMACNA sheet metal construction standard.

**Chapter 16 (IRC): Section 1602 – Return Air.** The provisions for return air have been simplified and clarified to improve understanding while preserving the intent of keeping contaminants out of the airstream of HVAC systems. The provisions for outdoor air openings have been removed and the code now references the applicable provisions for outdoor air in Chapter 3.

**Chapter 18 (IRC): Section 1804.4 – Door Swing.** This was added into the code to make sure appliance and vent terminals are located such that doors cannot swing within 12 inches horizontally of the vent terminals. Installers may not utilize stops or door closures to obtain the clearances.

**Chapter 21 (IRC): Section M2105 – Ground Source Heat-Pump System Looping.** Plastic piping and tubing used in water-based ground-source heat-pump ground loop systems now have its own section in the IRC showing requirements for: acceptable materials, material ratings, clearances from combustibles, stain and stresses, pipe support, labeling and marking, testing - (100psi), embedded piping

**This is not a complete list of all the changes, but a list of highlights that will affect the HVAC industry.**