



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

TO: DSD Associates
FROM: Florencio Peña, Director
FILE: Code Interpretations Manual
DATE: October 28, 2005

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: CI2006-001

TITLE: Clothes Dryers Duct Length Increases

CODE/EDITION: Uniform Mechanical Code 2003

SECTION: 504.3.2.2

PURPOSE: To clarify that an alternate means of installation can be obtained and to serve as a means of reference for new apartment construction.

504.3.2.2 Length Limitation. Unless otherwise permitted or required by the dryer manufacturer's installation instructions and approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction, domestic dryer moisture exhaust shall not exceed a total combined horizontal and vertical length of fourteen (14) feet including two (2) ninety degree (90 °) (1.57rad) elbows. Two (2) feet (610mm) shall be deducted for each ninety degree (90°) (1.57rad) elbow in excess of two.

QUESTION: For apartments (new construction) where the dryer brand is unknown and the dryer location is not close to an exterior wall, how can the contractor comply with the length requirement?

ANSWER: The dryer exhaust duct may be allowed to increase from 4 inches to 5 inches in order to obtain a longer duct length as long as calculations that justify the additional length have been prepared by a professional engineer licensed in Texas and have been reviewed and accepted by Building Development's Plans Review Division. The authorization of the additional length will be documented appropriately as a note on the drawings stamped "Reviewed for Code Compliance."

Note: If the appliance is owner furnished, a written document from the owner should state the brand and include manufactures installation instructions to indicate the length of exhaust duct run to be installed which meets the brand requirements.

Florencio Peña, Director and Building Official
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