



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: DSD Associates
FROM: Roderick Sanchez, Director and Code Official
DATE: September 18, 2013

INTERPERTATION NUMBER: CI2013-003

TITLE: Waste Receptors.

CODE/EDITION: 2012 International Plumbing Code (IPC) as adopted by COSA

SECTION: **802.3 Waste Receptors.** *Waste receptors shall be installed in ventilated spaces. Waste receptors shall not be installed in bathrooms, toilet rooms, plenums, crawl spaces, attics, interstitial spaces above ceilings and below floors or in any inaccessible or unventilated space such as a closet or store room. Ready access shall be provided to waste receptors.*

QUESTION 1: What is the definition of a waste receptor?

ANSWER: A waste receptor in context of Chapter 8 of the 2012 IPC is a receptacle that receives wastes to the sanitary drain system (any liquid with non-fecal matter). The wastes are from plumbing and mechanical fixtures/equipment through an indirect waste pipe installed with an air gap or sometimes allowed through an air break. The intent of the indirect connection is to prevent backflow and possible contamination of potable water, food-handling equipment, healthcare equipment, swimming pools, etc. Chapter 8 of the 2012 IPC regulates where waste receptors may be located to provide this protection.

QUESTION 2: May a waste receptor be located in a mechanical closet/mechanical room used as a return air plenum?

ANSWER: Yes. A plenum is a concealed space within a building (usually concealed areas of building construction) that is unoccupied and serves as part of an air distribution system. A mechanical room or mechanical closet with a door serving as part of the return air plenum is considered accessible and is an occupiable room. Therefore the department will allow condensation drains, relief valve drains, pan drains, and other similar fixtures with clear water wastes, including discharges from water softeners to be routed to such receptors. The receptor shall be located in same closet or room where

mechanical equipment is housed and where it will be routinely serviced and inspected. Receptors shall be provided with deep seal traps and with a trap primer to prevent potential evaporation and properly sized to receive the anticipated flow rate. A mechanical closet must be ventilated and receptors shall be conveniently located to allow for cleaning, flushing and inspection.

QUESTION 3: May a waste receptor be located in a return air plenum behind a removable or operable access panel?

ANSWER: No. Waste receptors shall be located in occupiable areas frequently noticed, serviced, and inspected.

QUESTION 4: May indirect waste pipes be routed to a hub drain in a restroom or toilet room?

ANSWER: No. Indirect wastes are not allowed to be routed to a waste receptor in a restroom or toilet room. A hub drain installed within a restroom or toilet room not receiving waste from an indirect waste pipe is not considered a waste receptor per Chapter 8 of the 2012 IPC.

QUESTION 5: May wastes from other equipment (other than clear water discharges from mechanical equipment listed in Question 2) be routed to a waste receptor in a mechanical room or closet?

ANSWER: No. The intent of Chapter 8 is to regulate placement of waste receptors to protect equipment associated with food handling, health care facilities, and potable water systems, as well as discharge of waste containing hazardous materials for the protection of the building drainage system, building sewer and public sewer system.



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