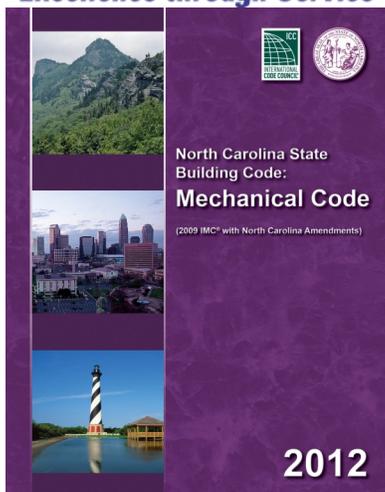




Mechanical News

July 2012

Questions from contractors



Question : Does the code require me to insulate a dryer vent that passes through an attic or unconditioned space ?

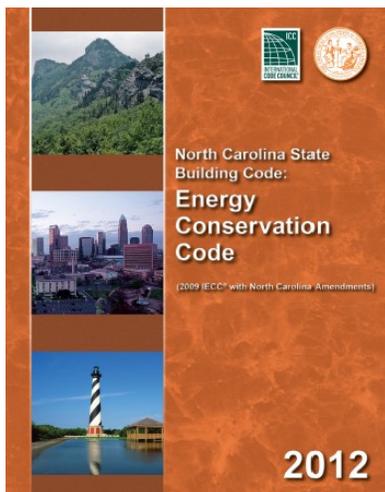
Answer : No, Section 603.12 in the NCMC does not apply to exhaust duct. This section is for supply and return ducts to prevent condensation on the exterior of the duct surface in unconditioned space. Supply and return duct will need to be insulated in accordance 403.2.1 NCECC and section 503.2.7 NCECC

Question : What gauge pipe does the code require for dryer exhaust duct ?

Answer : Section 504.6.1 NCMC requires the exhaust duct to be a minimum of 0.016 inch (28 Gauge) in typical applications. If the duct is in a commercial building and is penetrating a fire partition section 607.5.3 NCMC would require the duct to be 24 gauge. If the duct is in a commercial building and penetrates a fire-resistance rated floor /ceiling assembly then section 607.6.1 NCMC would require the duct to be 26 gauge.

Question : If I replace a heating system am I required to install a programmable thermostat ?

Answer : No. You are only required to install a programmable thermostat if you replace the thermostat and there is not already a programmable in the house. If the existing thermostat is compatible with the new system being installed the code does not require you to replace it.

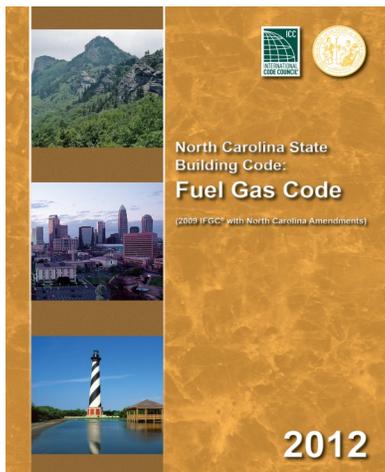


Question : What is the requirements for commercial refrigerant piping insulation ?

Answer : Section 503.2.8 of the NCECC requires the insulation to be 1.5” thick with a thermal conductivity not exceeding 0.27 per inch.

Question : Am I required to label the length of a dryer vent that I have installed ?

Answer : Yes. Section 504.6.5 NCMC Length identification. The equivalent length of the exhaust duct shall be identified on a permanent label or tag. The label or tag shall be located within 6 feet of the exhaust duct connection.



Refrigerant piping size information

If you are installing new refrigerant piping or if you are connecting back to existing piping and the piping size is a different size than what is referenced in the manufactures installation instructions you must leave alternate pipe sizing information from the equipment manufacture **on site** with the installation instructions in order to get your inspection completed. Please do not fax this information to the inspector. It is to hard for the inspectors to keep up with this information from one job to another. The owners may need this information for future reference as well. **Section 304.1 NCMC requires that this information to be left on site for the inspection.**

All of the 2012 Code books are available at NCDOL or through ICC

NCMC SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION

102.2 Existing installations. Except as otherwise provided for in this chapter, a provision in this code shall not require the removal, *alteration* or abandonment of, nor prevent the continued utilization and maintenance of, **a mechanical system lawfully in existence at the time of the adoption of this code.**

102.3 Maintenance. Mechanical systems, both existing and new, and parts thereof shall be maintained in proper operating condition in accordance with the original design and in a safe and sanitary condition. Devices or safeguards which are required by this code shall be maintained in compliance with the code edition under which they were installed. The owner or the owner's designated agent shall be responsible for maintenance of mechanical systems. To determine compliance with this provision, the code official shall have the authority to require a mechanical system to be re-inspected.

102.4 Additions, alterations or repairs. Additions, alterations, renovations or repairs to a mechanical system shall conform to that required for a new mechanical system without requiring the existing mechanical system to comply with all of the requirements of this code. Additions, alterations or repairs shall not cause an existing mechanical system to become unsafe, hazardous or overloaded.

Minor additions, alterations, renovations and repairs to existing mechanical systems shall meet the provisions for new construction, unless such work is done in the same manner and arrangement as was in the existing system, **is not hazardous and is approved.**

105.1 Modifications. Whenever there are practical difficulties involved in carrying out the provisions of this code, the code official shall have the authority to grant modifications for individual cases upon application of the owner or owner's representative, provided that the code official shall first find that special individual reason makes the strict letter of this code impractical and the modification is in compliance with the intent and purpose of this code and does not lessen health, life and fire safety requirements. The details of action granting modifications shall be recorded and entered in the files of the mechanical inspection department.

105.2 Alternative materials, methods, equipment and appliances. The provisions of this code are not intended to prevent the installation of any material or to prohibit any method of construction not specifically prescribed by this code, provided that any such alternative has been *approved*. An alternative material or method of construction shall be *approved* where the code official finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the intent of the provisions of this code, and that the material, method or work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in this code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and safety.

105.5 Material, equipment and appliance reuse. Materials, *equipment*, appliances and devices shall not be reused unless such elements have been reconditioned, tested and placed in good and proper working condition and *approved*.

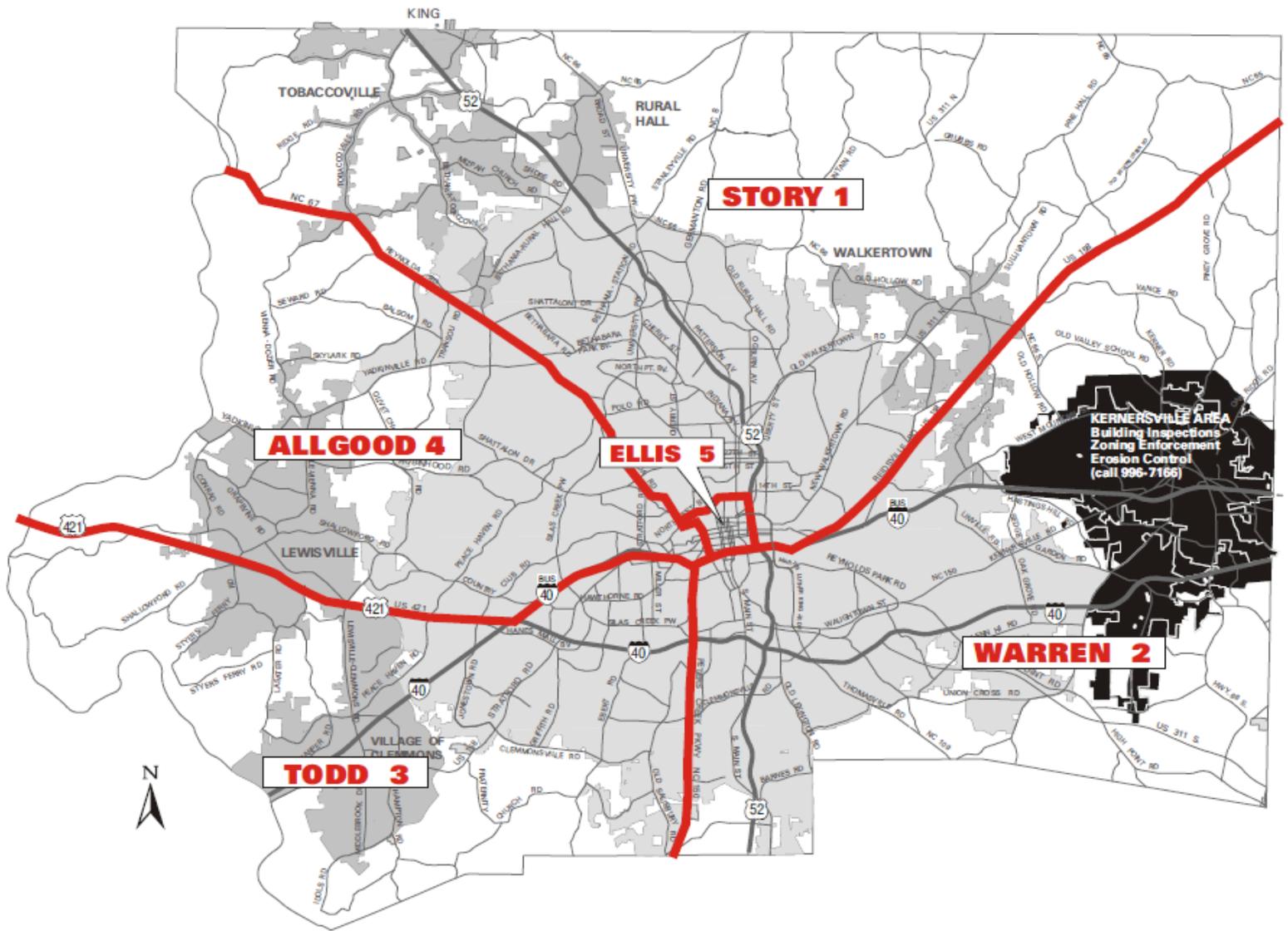
Contact information

If you have a occupied dwelling that needs an inspection, please leave us the contact information on the permit and let the owners or tenants know that we will be contacting them to make arrangements to gain access to perform your inspection. **Please Do not tell them when we will be there to do the inspection because we may be running behind a day or we may have someone out.** You can let them know that you have your inspection scheduled and that we will contact them.

**If you wish to have your questions included in our monthly newsletter,
Please send to alexe@cityofws.org Alex Ellis Senior Mechanical Inspector 336-727-2382**

CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM Mayor: Allen Joines City Council: Vivian H. Burke, Mayor Pro Tempore, Northeast Ward;
Denise D. Adams, North Ward; Dan Besse, Southwest Ward; Robert C. Clark, West Ward; Molly Leight, South Ward; Wanda Merschel,
Northwest Ward; Derwin L. Montgomery, East Ward; James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward City Manager: Lee Garrity
FORSYTH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS David R. Plyler, Chairman; Debra Conrad, Vice Chair; Beaufort O. Bailey; Ted Kaplan;
Richard V. Linville; Walter Marshall; Gloria D. Whisenhunt County Manager: Dudley Watts, Jr.





Mechanical/Heating Inspector's Work Areas

MECH. / HEATING INSPECTORS	Work Area	Office Phone	Nextel Mobile	Nextel Direct Connect
Alex Ellis (Supr.)	5	747-7462	462-7501	150*1129*30
Jim Story	1	748-3098	462-7498	150*1129*27
Wade Warren	2	734-1394	462-7502	150*1129*31
Shawn Todd	3	727-2387	462-7499	150*1129*28
Troy Allgood	4	747-7431	462-7489	150*1129*18