

CHAPTER 15

EXHAUST SYSTEMS

SECTION M1501 GENERAL

M1501.1 Outdoor discharge. The air removed by every mechanical exhaust system shall be discharged to the outdoors in accordance with Section M1506.2. Air shall not be exhausted into an attic, soffit, ridge vent or crawl space.

Exception: Whole-house *ventilation-type attic* fans that discharge into the *attic* space of *dwelling units* having private *attics* shall be permitted.

SECTION M1502 CLOTHES DRYER EXHAUST

M1502.1 General. Clothes dryers shall be exhausted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

M1502.2 Independent exhaust systems. Dryer exhaust systems shall be independent of all other systems and shall convey the moisture to the outdoors.

Exception: This section shall not apply to *listed* and *labeled* condensing (ductless) clothes dryers.

M1502.3 Duct termination. Exhaust ducts shall terminate on the outside of the building. Exhaust duct terminations shall be in accordance with the dryer manufacturer's installation instructions. If the manufacturer's instructions do not specify a termination location, the exhaust duct shall terminate not less than 3 feet (914 mm) in any direction from openings into buildings. Exhaust duct terminations shall be equipped with a backdraft damper. Screens shall not be installed at the duct termination.

M1502.4 Dryer exhaust ducts. Dryer exhaust ducts shall conform to the requirements of Sections M1502.4.1 through M1502.4.6.

M1502.4.1 Material and size. Exhaust ducts shall have a smooth interior finish and be constructed of metal having a minimum thickness of 0.0157 inches (0.3950 mm) (No. 28

gage). The duct shall be 4 inches (102 mm) nominal in diameter.

M1502.4.2 Duct installation. Exhaust ducts shall be supported at intervals not to exceed 12 feet (3658 mm) and shall be secured in place. The insert end of the duct shall extend into the adjoining duct or fitting in the direction of airflow. Exhaust duct joints shall be sealed in accordance with Section M1601.4.1 and shall be mechanically fastened. Ducts shall not be joined with screws or similar fasteners that protrude more than $\frac{1}{8}$ inch (3.2 mm) into the inside of the duct.

M1502.4.3 Transition duct. Transition ducts used to connect the dryer to the exhaust *duct system* shall be a single length that is *listed* and *labeled* in accordance with UL 2158A. Transition ducts shall be a maximum of 8 feet (2438 mm) in length. Transition ducts shall not be concealed within construction.

M1502.4.4 Duct length. The maximum allowable exhaust duct length shall be determined by one of the methods specified in Section M1502.4.4.1 or M1502.4.4.2.

M1502.4.4.1 Specified length. The maximum length of the exhaust duct shall be 35 feet (10 668 mm) from the connection to the transition duct from the dryer to the outlet terminal. Where fittings are used, the maximum length of the exhaust duct shall be reduced in accordance with Table M1502.4.4.1. The maximum length of the exhaust duct does not include the transition duct.

M1502.4.4.2 Manufacturer's instructions. The size and maximum length of the exhaust duct shall be determined by the dryer manufacturer's installation instructions. The code official shall be provided with a copy of the installation instructions for the make and model of the dryer at the concealment inspection. In the absence of fitting equivalent length calculations from the clothes dryer manufacturer, Table M1502.4.4.1 shall be used.

**TABLE M1502.4.4.1
DRYER EXHAUST DUCT FITTING EQUIVALENT LENGTH**

DRYER EXHAUST DUCT FITTING TYPE	EQUIVALENT LENGTH
<u>4 inch radius mitered 45 degree elbow</u>	<u>2 feet 6 inches</u>
<u>4 inch radius mitered 90 degree elbow</u>	<u>5 feet</u>
<u>6 inch radius smooth 45 degree elbow</u>	<u>1 foot</u>
<u>6 inch radius smooth 90 degree elbow</u>	<u>1 foot 9 inches</u>
<u>8 inch radius smooth 45 degree elbow</u>	<u>1 foot</u>
<u>8 inch radius smooth 90 degree elbow</u>	<u>1 foot 7 inches</u>
<u>10 inch radius smooth 45 degree elbow</u>	<u>9 inches</u>
<u>10 inch radius smooth 90 degree elbow</u>	<u>1 foot 6 inches</u>

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 degree = 0.0175 rad.

EXHAUST SYSTEMS

M1502.4.5 Length identification. Where the exhaust duct is concealed within the building construction, 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 (1829 mm) of the exhaust duct connection.

M1502.4.6 Exhaust duct required. Where space for a clothes dryer is provided, an exhaust *duct system* shall be installed. Where the clothes dryer is not installed at the time of occupancy the exhaust duct shall be capped or plugged in the space in which it originates and identified and marked "future use."

Exception: Where a *listed* condensing clothes dryer is installed prior to occupancy of the structure.

M1502.5 Protection required. Protective shield plates shall be placed where nails or screws from finish or other work are likely to penetrate the clothes dryer exhaust duct. Shield plates shall be placed on the finished face of all framing members where there is less than $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches (32 mm) between the duct and the finished face of the framing member. Protective shield plates shall be constructed of steel, shall have a minimum thickness of 0.062-inch (1.6 mm) and shall extend a minimum of 2 inches (51 mm) above sole plates and below top plates.

SECTION M1503 RANGE HOODS

M1503.1 General. Range hoods shall discharge to the outdoors through a single-wall duct. The duct serving the hood shall have a smooth interior surface, shall be air tight, shall be equipped with a back-draft damper, and shall be independent of all other exhaust systems. Ducts serving range hoods shall not terminate in an attic or crawl space or areas inside the building.

Exception: Where installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions, and where mechanical or natural *ventilation* is otherwise provided, *listed* and *labeled* ductless range hoods shall not be required to discharge to the outdoors.

M1503.2 Duct material. Single-wall ducts serving range hoods shall be constructed of galvanized steel, stainless steel or copper.

Exception: Ducts for domestic kitchen cooking *appliances* equipped with down-draft exhaust systems shall be permitted to be constructed of schedule 40 PVC pipe and fittings provided that the installation complies with all of the following:

1. The duct is installed under a concrete slab poured on grade;
2. The underfloor trench in which the duct is installed is completely backfilled with sand or gravel;
3. The PVC duct extends not more than 1 inch (25 mm) above the indoor concrete floor surface;
4. The PVC duct extends not more than 1 inch (25 mm) above grade *outside of the building*; and
5. The PVC ducts are solvent cemented.

M1503.3 Kitchen exhaust rates. Where domestic kitchen cooking *appliances* are equipped with ducted range hoods or down-draft exhaust systems, the fans shall be sized in accordance with Section M1507.4.

M1503.4 Makeup air required. Exhaust hood systems capable of exhausting in excess of 400 cubic feet per minute (0.19 m³/s) shall be provided with makeup air at a rate approximately equal to the exhaust air rate. Such makeup air systems shall be equipped with a means of closure and shall be automatically controlled to start and operate simultaneously with the exhaust system.

SECTION M1504 INSTALLATION OF MICROWAVE OVENS

M1504.1 Installation of a microwave oven over a cooking appliance. The installation of a *listed* and *labeled* cooking *appliance* or microwave oven over a *listed* and *labeled* cooking *appliance* shall conform to the terms of the upper *appliance's listing* and *label* and the manufacturer's installation instructions. The microwave oven shall conform to UL 923.

SECTION M1505 OVERHEAD EXHAUST HOODS

M1505.1 General. Domestic open-top broiler units shall have a metal exhaust hood, having a minimum thickness of 0.0157-inch (0.3950 mm) (No. 28 gage) with $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6.4 mm) clearance between the hood and the underside of combustible material or cabinets. A clearance of at least 24 inches (610 mm) shall be maintained between the cooking surface and the combustible material or cabinet. The hood shall be at least as wide as the broiler unit, extend over the entire unit, discharge to the outdoors and be equipped with a backdraft damper or other means to control infiltration/exfiltration when not in operation. Broiler units incorporating an integral exhaust system, and *listed* and *labeled* for use without an exhaust hood, need not have an exhaust hood.

SECTION M1506 EXHAUST DUCTS AND EXHAUST OPENINGS

M1506.1 Ducts. Where exhaust duct construction is not specified in this chapter, construction shall comply with Chapter 16.

M1506.2 Exhaust openings. Air exhaust openings shall terminate not less than 3 feet (914 mm) from property lines; 3 feet (914 mm) from operable and nonoperable openings into the building and 10 feet (3048 mm) from mechanical air intakes except where the opening is located 3 feet (914 mm) above the air intake. Openings shall comply with Sections R303.5.2 and R303.6.

SECTION M1507 MECHANICAL VENTILATION

M1507.1 General. Local exhaust and whole-house mechanical ventilation systems and equipment shall be designed in accordance with this section. (~~Where local exhaust or whole-~~

house mechanical ventilation is provided, the equipment shall be designed in accordance with this section.)

M1507.2 Recirculation of air. Exhaust air from bathrooms and toilet rooms shall not be recirculated within a residence or to another *dwelling unit* and shall be exhausted directly to the outdoors. Exhaust air from bathrooms and toilet rooms shall not discharge into an *attic*, crawl space or other areas inside the building.

M1507.3 Whole-house mechanical ventilation system. Whole-house mechanical ventilation systems shall be designed in accordance with Sections M1507.3.1 through ~~(M1507.3.3)~~ M1507.3.7.3.

M1507.3.1 System design. Each *dwelling unit* or *guest-room* shall be equipped with a ventilation system complying with Section M1507.3.4, M1507.3.5, M1507.3.6 or M1507.3.7. Compliance is also permitted to be demonstrated through compliance with the *International Mechanical Code*.

M1507.3.2 Control and operation.

1. Location of controls. Controls for all ventilation systems shall be *readily accessible* by the occupant.
2. Instructions. Operating instructions for whole-house ventilation systems shall be provided to the occupant by the installer of the system.
3. Local exhaust systems. Local exhaust systems shall be controlled by manual switches, dehumidistats, timers, or other approved means.
4. Continuous whole-house ventilation systems. Continuous whole-house ventilation systems shall operate continuously. Exhaust fans, forced-air system fans, or supply fans shall be equipped with "fan on" as override controls. Controls shall be capable of operating the ventilation system without energizing other energy-consuming appliances. A label shall be affixed to the controls that reads "Whole House Ventilation (see operating instructions)."
5. Intermittent whole-house ventilation systems. Intermittent whole-house ventilation systems shall comply with the following:
 - 5.1. They shall be capable of operating intermittently and continuously.
 - 5.2. They shall have controls capable of operating the exhaust fans, forced-air system fans, or supply fans without energizing other energy-consuming appliances.
 - 5.3. The ventilation rate shall be adjusted according to the exception in Section M1507.3.3.
 - 5.4. The system shall be designed so that it can operate automatically based on the type of control timer installed.
 - 5.5. The intermittent mechanical ventilation system shall operate at least one hour out of every four.
 - 5.6. The system shall have a manual control and automatic control, such as a 24-hour clock timer.

5.7. At the time of final inspection, the automatic control shall be set to operate the whole-house fan according to the schedule used to calculate the whole-house fan sizing.

5.8. A label shall be affixed to the control that reads "Whole House Ventilation (see operating instructions)."

M1507.3.2.1 Operating instructions. Installers shall provide the manufacturer's installation, operating instructions, and a whole-house ventilation system operation description.

~~(M1507.3.1 System design. The whole-house ventilation system shall consist of one or more supply or exhaust fans, or a combination of such, and associated ducts and controls. Local exhaust or supply fans are permitted to serve as such a system. Outdoor air ducts connected to the return side of an air handler shall be considered to provide supply ventilation.~~

~~M1507.3.2 System controls. The whole-house mechanical ventilation system shall be provided with controls that enable manual override.)~~

M1507.3.3 Mechanical ventilation rate. The whole-house mechanical ventilation system shall provide outdoor air to each *habitable space* at a continuous rate of not less than that determined in accordance with Table M1507.3.3(1).

Exception: The whole-house mechanical ventilation system is permitted to operate intermittently where the system has controls that enable operation for not less than 25-percent of each 4-hour segment and the ventilation rate prescribed in Table M1507.3.3(1) is multiplied by the factor determined in accordance with Table M1507.3.3(2).

M1507.3.4 Whole-house ventilation using exhaust fans. This section establishes minimum prescriptive requirements for whole-house ventilation systems using exhaust fans. A system which meets all the requirements of this section shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements for a whole-house ventilation system.

M1507.3.4.1 Whole-house ventilation fans. Exhaust fans providing whole-house ventilation shall have a flow rating at 0.25 inch water gauge as specified in Table M1507.3.3(1). Manufacturer's fan flow ratings shall be determined according to HVI 916 Home Ventilating Institute Airflow Test Procedure or AMCA 210, Laboratory Methods of Testing Fans for Certified Aerodynamic Performance Rating.

M1507.3.4.2 Fan noise. Whole-house fans located 4 feet (1219.2 mm) or less from the interior grille shall have a sone rating of 1.0 or less measured at 0.1 inches water gauge. Manufacturer's noise ratings shall be determined as per HVI 915 Home Ventilating Institute Loudness Testing and Rating Procedure. Remotely-mounted fans shall be acoustically isolated from the structural elements of the building and from attached ductwork using insulated flexible duct or other approved material.

**TABLE M1507.3.3(1)
CONTINUOUS WHOLE-HOUSE MECHANICAL VENTILATION SYSTEM AIRFLOW RATE REQUIREMENTS**

DWELLING UNIT FLOOR AREA (square feet)	NUMBER OF BEDROOMS				
	0 – 1	2 – 3	4 – 5	6 – 7	> 7
	Airflow in CFM				
< 1,500	30	45	60	75	90
1,501 – 3,000	45	60	75	90	105
3,001 – 4,500	60	75	90	105	120
4,501 – 6,000	75	90	105	120	135
6,001 – 7,500	90	105	120	135	150
≥ 7,500	105	120	135	150	165

For SI: 1 square foot = 0.0929 m², 1 cubic foot per minute = 0.0004719 m³/s.

**TABLE M1507.3.3(2)
INTERMITTENT WHOLE-HOUSE MECHANICAL VENTILATION RATE FACTORS^{a, b}**

RUN-TIME PERCENTAGE IN EACH 4-HOUR SEGMENT	25%	33%	50%	66%	75%	100%
Factor ^a	4	3	2	1.5	1.3	1.0

a. For ventilation system run time values between those given, the factors are permitted to be determined by interpolation.
b. Extrapolation beyond the table is prohibited.

M1507.3.4.3 Fan controls. The whole-house ventilation fan shall meet the requirements of Sections M1507.3.2 and M1507.3.2.1.

M1507.3.4.4 Outdoor air inlets. Outdoor air shall be distributed to each *habitable space* by individual outdoor air inlets. Where outdoor air supplies are separated from exhaust points by doors, provisions shall be made to ensure air flow by installation of distribution ducts, undercutting doors, installation of grilles, transoms, or similar means. Doors shall be undercut to a minimum of 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) above the surface of the finish floor covering.

Individual room outdoor air inlets shall:

1. Have controllable and secure openings;
2. Be sleeved or otherwise designed so as not to compromise the thermal properties of the wall or window in which they are placed;
3. Provide not less than 4 square inches (2581 mm²) of net free area of opening for each *habitable space*. Any inlet or combination of inlets which provide 10 cfm at 10 Pascals are deemed equivalent to 4 square inches (2581 mm²) net free area.

Inlets shall be screened or otherwise protected from entry by leaves or other material.

Outdoor air inlets shall be located so as not to take air from the following areas:

- 3.1. Closer than 10 feet (3048 mm) from an appliance vent outlet, unless such vent outlet is 3 feet (914.4 mm) above the outdoor air inlet.
- 3.2. Where it will pick up objectionable odors, fumes or flammable vapors.
- 3.3. A hazardous or unsanitary location.
- 3.4. A room or space having any fuel-burning appliances therein.

3.5. Closer than 10 feet (3048 mm) from a vent opening of a plumbing drainage system unless the vent opening is at least 3 feet (914.4 mm) above the air inlet.

3.6. Attic, crawl spaces, or garages.

M1507.3.5 Whole-house ventilation integrated with a forced-air system. This section establishes minimum prescriptive requirements for whole-house ventilation systems integrated with forced-air ventilation systems. A system which meets all the requirements of this section shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements for a whole-house ventilation system.

M1507.3.5.1 Integrated whole-house ventilation systems. Integrated whole-house ventilation systems shall provide outdoor air at the rate calculated using Section M1507.3.3. Integrated forced-air ventilation systems shall distribute outdoor air to each *habitable space* through the forced-air system ducts. Integrated forced-air ventilation systems shall have an outdoor air inlet duct connecting a terminal element on the outside of the building to the return air plenum of the forced-air system, at a point within 4 feet (1219.2 mm) upstream of the air handler. The outdoor air inlet duct connection to the return air stream shall be located upstream of the forced-air system blower and shall not be connected directly into a furnace cabinet to prevent thermal shock to the heat exchanger. The system shall be equipped with a motorized damper connected to the automatic ventilation control as specified in Section M1507.3.2, Item 5. The required flow rate shall be verified by field testing with a flow hood or a flow measuring station.

M1507.3.5.2 Ventilation duct insulation. All supply ducts in the *conditioned space* shall be insulated to a minimum of R-4.

M1507.3.5.3 Outdoor air inlets. Inlets shall be screened or otherwise protected from entry by leaves or

other material. Outdoor air inlets shall be located so as not to take air from the following areas:

1. Closer than 10 feet (3048 mm) from an appliance vent outlet, unless such vent outlet is 3 feet (914.4 mm) above the outdoor air inlet.
2. Where it will pick up objectionable odors, fumes or flammable vapors.
3. A hazardous or unsanitary location.
4. A room or space having any fuel-burning appliances therein.
5. Closer than 10 feet (3048 mm) from a vent opening of a plumbing drainage system unless the vent opening is at least 3 feet (914.4 mm) above the air inlet.
6. Attic, crawl spaces, or garages.

M1507.3.6 Whole-house ventilation using a supply fan. This section establishes minimum prescriptive requirements for whole-house ventilation systems using an inline supply fan. A system which meets all the requirements of this section shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements for a whole-house ventilation system.

M1507.3.6.1 Outdoor air. Supply fan ventilation systems shall distribute outdoor air to each *habitable space* through the forced-air system ducts or through dedicated ducts to each *habitable space*. Supply fans shall have the capacity to provide the amount of outdoor air specified in Table M1507.3.3(1) at 0.40 inch water gauge as per HVI 916 Home Ventilating Institute Airflow Test Procedure. The outdoor air shall be filtered before it is delivered to *habitable spaces*. The filter may be located at the intake device, in line with the fan, or, in the case of a connection to the return plenum of the air handler, using the furnace filter. An outdoor air inlet shall be connected to either the supply or return air stream.

M1507.3.6.2 Ducts. An outdoor air inlet duct connection to the supply air stream shall be located downstream of the forced-air system blower. An outdoor air inlet duct connection to the return air stream shall be located at least 4 feet (1219.2 mm) upstream of the forced-air system blower and its filter. Neither type of duct shall be connected directly into a furnace cabinet to prevent thermal shock to the heat exchanger. The outdoor air inlet duct shall be prescriptively sized in accordance with Table M1507.3.6.2. The terminal element on the outside of the building shall be sized 2 inches (50.8 mm) in diameter larger than the outdoor air inlet duct.

**TABLE M1507.3.6.2
PRESCRIPTIVE SUPPLY FAN DUCT SIZING**

SUPPLY FAN TESTED CFM AT 0.40" wg		
Specified Volume from Table M1508.2	Minimum Smooth Duct Diameter	Minimum Flexible Duct Diameter
50 - 90 cfm	4 inch	5 inch
90 - 150 cfm	5 inch	6 inch
150 - 250 cfm	6 inch	7 inch
250 - 400 cfm	7 inch	8 inch

M1507.3.6.3 Dampers. The system shall be equipped with a backdraft damper and one of the following:

1. A calibrated manual volume damper installed and set to meet the measured flow rates specified in Table M1507.3.3(1) by field testing with a pressure gauge and/or following manufacturer's installation instructions; or
2. A manual volume damper installed and set to meet the measured flow rates specified in Table M1507.3.3(1) by field testing with a flow hood or a flow measuring station; or
3. An automatic flow-regulating device sized to the specified flow rates in Table M1507.3.3(1) which provides constant flow over a pressure range of 0.20 to 0.60 inches water gauge.

M1507.3.6.4 Ventilation duct insulation. All supply ducts in the *conditioned space* shall be insulated to a minimum of R-4.

M1507.3.6.5 Outdoor air inlets. Inlets shall be screened or otherwise protected from entry by leaves or other material. Outdoor air inlets shall be located so as not to take air from the following areas:

1. Closer than 10 feet (3048 mm) from an appliance vent outlet, unless such vent outlet is 3 feet (914.4 mm) above the outdoor air inlet.
2. Where it will pick up objectionable odors, fumes or flammable vapors.
3. A hazardous or unsanitary location.
4. A room or space having any fuel-burning appliances therein.
5. Closer than 10 feet (3048 mm) from a vent opening of a plumbing drainage system unless the vent opening is at least 3 feet (914.4 mm) above the air inlet.
6. Attic, crawl spaces, or garages.

M1507.3.7 Whole-house ventilation using a heat recovery ventilation system. This section establishes minimum prescriptive requirements for whole-house ventilation using a heat recovery ventilation system.

M1507.3.7.1 Heat recovery ventilation systems. All ductwork in heat recovery systems shall be sized and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. System minimum flow rating shall be not less than that specified in Table M1507.3.3(1). Heat recovery ventilation systems shall have a filter on the upstream side of the heat exchanger in both the intake and exhaust airstreams with a minimum efficiency rating value (MERV) of 6.

M1507.3.7.2 Ventilation duct insulation. All supply ducts in the *conditioned space* installed upstream of the heat exchanger shall be insulated to a minimum of R-4.

EXHAUST SYSTEMS

M1507.3.7.3 Outdoor air inlets. Inlets shall be screened or otherwise protected from entry by leaves or other material. Outdoor air inlets shall be located so as not to take air from the following areas:

1. Closer than 10 feet (3048 mm) from an appliance vent outlet, unless such vent outlet is 3 feet (914.4 mm) above the outdoor air inlet.
2. Where it will pick up objectionable odors, fumes or flammable vapors.
3. A hazardous or unsanitary location.
4. A room or space having any fuel-burning appliances therein.
5. Closer than 10 feet (3048 mm) from a vent opening of a plumbing drainage system unless the vent opening is at least 3 feet (914.4 mm) above the air inlet.
6. Attic, crawl spaces, or garages.

M1507.4 Local exhaust ((rates)). Local exhaust shall be provided in each kitchen, bathroom, water closet, laundry room, indoor swimming pool, spa, and other rooms where water vapor or cooking odor is produced. Local exhaust systems shall be designed to have the capacity to exhaust the minimum air flow rate determined in accordance with Table M1507.4.

**TABLE M1507.4
MINIMUM REQUIRED LOCAL EXHAUST RATES
FOR ONE- AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS**

AREA TO BE EXHAUSTED	EXHAUST RATES
Kitchens	100 cfm intermittent or 25 cfm continuous
Bathrooms-Toilet Rooms, laundry rooms, indoor swimming pools, spas	Mechanical exhaust capacity of 50 cfm intermittent or 20 cfm continuous

For SI: 1 cubic foot per minute = 0.0004719 m³/s.

M1507.4.1 Local exhaust fans. Exhaust fans providing local exhaust shall have a minimum fan flow rating not less than 50 cfm at 0.25 inches water gauge for bathrooms, laundries, or similar rooms and 100 cfm at 0.25 inches water gauge for kitchens. Manufacturer’s fan flow ratings shall be determined in accordance with HVI 916 Home Ventilating Institute Airflow Test Procedure or AMCA 210, Laboratory Methods of Testing Fans for Certified Aerodynamic Performance Rating.

Exception: Where a range hood or down draft exhaust fan is used to satisfy the local exhaust requirements for kitchens, the range hood or down draft exhaust shall not be less than 100 cfm at 0.10 inches water gauge.

M1507.4.2 Local exhaust controls. Local exhaust systems shall be controlled by manual switches, dehumidistats, timers, or other approved means. Local exhaust system controls shall be readily accessible.

