



City of Raymore

Building Inspection Division
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Code Interpretation: 2012 UMC Interpretation 04

Date: Updated 1/8/2014

Code/ Edition: 2012 Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC)

Section(s): 504.1 and 602.1

Subject: Exhaust Air Ducts in Plenums

Question: Section 504.1 of the UMC states "exhaust ducts shall not extend into or through ducts or plenums." Section 602.1 states "exhaust ducts under positive pressure and venting systems shall not extend into or pass through ducts or plenums."

Is it the intent of the code to prohibit environmental exhaust ducts under negative pressure (exhaust fan located at the roof or wall) in return air plenums of office buildings?

Answer: Yes

Commentary: Section 602.1 refers you to UMC Chapter 5 for limitations on environmental air systems exhaust ducts extending into or through ducts or plenums.

Section 504.1 does not distinguish between positive and negative pressure in this regard. If a duct system were to become disconnected at or near the source of contaminants, the contaminants could be drawn into the return air plenum and re-circulated.

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