HVAC DUCT SYSTEMS INSPECTION GUIDE

SHEET METAL AND AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
www.smacna.org

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THIRD EDITION – 2006

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FOREWORD

One definition of inspect is "to view closely and critically." In building construction the term "inspection" brings to mind many other terms: completeness, compliance, conformance, quality assurance, design deficiency, oversight, neglect, unauthorized substitution, defects and omissions, punch list, responsible party, call back, and payment retention. In any case the mechanical systems inspector plays an important role in contract compliance or code compliance verification. Knowledge and reasonableness are prerequisites for employment in this capacity. This guide is based on the assumption that SMACNA duct construction standards and installation recommendations are linked to contract or code compliance. It is an administrative guide to the inspection of duct systems. It can serve as a study guide for those needing an introduction to the functions of duct systems, to the nature of ductwork, and to the SMACNA documents it previews. Study of the complete texts of the excerpted editions is necessary and encouraged. Familiarity with all of the documents that regulate duct system installation will enable inspectors to develop their own checklists and to establish scales of importance that are consistent with their duties.

NOTE: The provisions herein are not intended to constitute contract requirements in and of themselves. The SMACNA manuals to which this guide refer contain many alternative constructions. They also contain many details that are obligatory. Other details are left to the prudent judgement of the contractor. Thus, this document is no substitute for familiarity with all of the provisions in the other manuals.

The following SMACNA manuals are excerpted within this guide:

- HVAC Duct Construction Standards, Third Edition, 2005
- Fibrous Glass Duct Construction Standards, Seventh Edition, 2003
- Fire, Smoke, and Radiation Damper Installation Guide for HVAC Systems, Fifth Edition, 2002

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