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AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD IAPMO/ANSI UMC 1-2003

UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE™



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Information on referenced publications can be found in Chapter 17.

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2003 UMC Foreword

The *Uniform Mechanical Code*[™] (UMC[™]) provides complete requirements for the installation and maintenance of heating, ventilating, cooling, and refrigeration systems, while at the same time allowing latitude for innovation and new technologies.

This code was first published in 1967. With the publication of the 2003 edition of the *Uniform Mechanical Code*, another significant milestone has been reached. For the first time in the history of the United States, a mechanical code developed through a true consensus process has been achieved. Contributions to the content of this code were made by every segment of the built industry, including such diverse interests as consumers, enforcing authorities, installers/maintainers, insurance, labor, manufacturers, research/standards/testing laboratories, special experts, and users.

The consensus process, accredited by the American National Standards Institute, serves as the framework for the Comprehensive Consensus[™] Code (C3) set – our nation’s first true set of ANSI accredited harmonized construction codes for the built industry. IAPMO’s C3 partners include the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the Western Fire Chiefs Association (WFCA) and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE).

The public at large is encouraged and invited to participate in IAPMO’s open consensus code development process. This code is updated every three years. A code development timeline and other relevant information is available at IAPMO’s website at www.iapmo.org.

The *Uniform Mechanical Code* is dedicated to all those who, in working to achieve “the ultimate mechanical code,” have unselfishly devoted their time, effort, and personal funds to create and maintain this, the finest mechanical code in existence today.

The 2003 *Uniform Mechanical Code* is supported by the C3 partners as well as the American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE), Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA), Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors National Association (PHCC-NA), the United Association (UA), and the World Plumbing Council (WPC). The presence of these logos, while reflecting support, does not imply any ownership of the copyright to the UMC which is held exclusively by IAPMO. Further, the logos of these associations indicates the support of IAPMO’s open, consensus process being used to develop IAPMO’s codes and standards.

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CONTENTS

Chapter 1 Administration	1	Part I — Ventilation Air	33
Part I — General	1	402.0 Makeup Air	33
101.0 Title	1	Part II — Evaporative Cooling Systems	33
102.0 Purpose	1	403.0 General	33
103.0 Scope	1	404.0 Location	33
104.0 Application to Existing Mechanical Systems	1	405.0 Access, Inspection, and Repair	33
105.0 Alternate Materials and Methods of Construction	1	406.0 Installation	33
106.0 Modifications	2	Chapter 5 Exhaust Systems	35
107.0 Tests	2	501.0 Scope	35
 		Part I — Environmental Air Ducts and Product- Conveying Systems	35
Part II — Organization and Enforcement	2	502.0 Definitions	35
108.0 Powers and Duties of the Authority Having Jurisdiction	2	503.0 Motors, Fans, and Filters	38
109.0 Unsafe Equipment	3	504.0 Environmental Air Ducts	38
110.0 Board of Appeals	3	505.0 Design of Product-Conveying Ventilation Systems	39
111.0 Violations	4	506.0 Product-Conveying Ducts	41
 		Part II — Commercial Hoods and Kitchen Ventilation	45
Part III — Permits and Inspections	4	507.0 General Requirements	45
112.0 Permits	4	508.0 Hoods	46
113.0 Application for Permit	4	509.0 Grease Removal Devices in Hoods	48
114.0 Permit Issuance	5	510.0 Exhaust Duct Systems	49
115.0 Fees	6	511.0 Air Movement	53
116.0 Inspections	6	512.0 Auxiliary Equipment	55
117.0 Connection Approval	7	513.0 Fire-Extinguishing Equipment	56
 		514.0 Procedures for the Use and Maintenance of Equipment	58
Chapter 2 Definitions	11	515.0 Minimum Safety Requirements for Cooking Equipment	59
201.0 General	11	516.0 Recirculating Systems	59
202.0 Accepted Meanings	11	517.0 Solid-Fuel Cooking Operations	61
 		Chapter 6 Duct Systems	67
Chapter 3 General Requirements	23	601.0 Scope	67
301.0 Scope	23	602.0 Material	67
302.0 Approval	23	603.0 Quality of Material	69
303.0 Connecting Gas Equipment	23	604.0 Installation of Ducts	69
304.0 Installation	24	605.0 Insulation of Ducts	69
305.0 Access	24	606.0 Smoke Dampers, Fire Dampers, and Ceiling Dampers	70
306.0 Automatic Control Devices	24	607.0 Ventilating Ceilings	70
307.0 Labeling	25		
308.0 Location	25		
309.0 Electrical Connections	26		
310.0 Condensate Wastes and Control	26		
311.0 Personnel Protection	26		
312.0 Air Filters	26		
Chapter 4 Ventilation Air Supply	33		
401.0 General	33		

UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE

608.0 Use of Under-Floor Space as Supply Plenum for Dwelling Units	71	928.0 Wall Furnaces	135
609.0 Automatic Shutoffs	71	929.0 Appliances for Installation in Manufactured Housing	136
Chapter 7 Combustion Air	81	930.0 Small Ceramic Kilns	136
701.0 Air for Combustion and Ventilation	81	Chapter 10 Steam and Hot Water Boilers	139
Chapter 8 Chimneys and Vents	85	1001.0 Purpose	139
801.0 Scope	85	1002.0 Scope	139
802.0 General	85	1003.0 Workmanship	139
803.0 Sizing of Category I Venting Systems	97	1004.0 Definitions	139
Chapter 9 Installation of Specific Equipment	119	1005.0 Permit Required	140
901.0 Scope	119	1006.0 Detailed Requirements	140
902.0 General	119	1007.0 Expansion Tanks	140
903.0 Air-Conditioning Equipment (Gas-Fired Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps)	119	1008.0 Safety or Relief Valve Discharge	141
904.0 Central Heating Boilers and Furnaces	120	1009.0 Shutoff Valves	141
905.0 Clothes Dryers	123	1010.0 Gas-Pressure Regulators	141
906.0 Conversion Burners	124	1011.0 Low-Water Cutoff	141
907.0 Decorative Appliances for Installation in Vented Fireplaces	124	1012.0 Combustion Regulators - Safety Valves	141
908.0 Gas Fireplaces, Vented	124	1013.0 Automatic Boilers	141
909.0 Non-Recirculating Direct Gas-Fired Industrial Air Heaters	125	1014.0 Clearance for Access	142
910.0 Recirculating Direct Gas-Fired Industrial Air Heaters	125	1015.0 Boiler Rooms and Enclosures	142
911.0 Duct Furnaces	126	1016.0 Mounting	142
912.0 Floor Furnaces	128	1017.0 Floors	142
913.0 Food Service Equipment, Floor Mounted	129	1018.0 Chimneys or Vents	142
914.0 Food Service Equipment Counter Appliances	130	1019.0 Drainage	142
915.0 Hot Plates and Laundry Stoves	131	1020.0 Fuel Piping, Tanks, and Valves	142
916.0 Household Cooking Appliances	131	1021.0 Air for Combustion and Ventilation	142
917.0 Illuminating Appliances	132	1022.0 Operating Adjustments and Instructions	142
918.0 Incinerators, Commercial-Industrial	133	1023.0 Inspections and Tests	142
919.0 Infrared Heaters	133	1024.0 Operating Permit	143
920.0 Open-Top Broiler Units	133	1025.0 Maintenance Inspection	143
921.0 Outdoor Cooking Appliances	133	1026.0 Operation and Maintenance of Boilers and Pressure Vessels	143
922.0 Pool Heaters	133	Chapter 11 Refrigeration	147
923.0 Refrigerators	134	1101.0 Scope	147
924.0 Room Heaters	134	Part I – Refrigeration Systems	147
925.0 Stationary Gas Engines	134	1102.0 Refrigerants	147
926.0 Gas-Fired Toilets	134	1103.0 Refrigerant Classification	147
927.0 Unit Heaters	134	1104.0 Classification of Refrigeration Systems	147
		1105.0 Requirements for Refrigerant and Refrigeration System Use	147
		1106.0 General Requirements	148
		1107.0 Refrigeration Machinery Rooms	149

CONTENTS

1108.0 Refrigeration Machinery Room Ventilation	150	1302.0 General	173
1109.0 Refrigeration Machinery Room Equipment and Controls	151	1303.0 Definitions	173
1110.0 Refrigerant Piping, Containers, and Valves	151	1304.0 Inspection	174
1111.0 Erection of Refrigerant Piping	152	1305.0 Certificate of Inspection	174
1112.0 Refrigerant Control Valves	152	1306.0 Authority Render Gas Service	175
1113.0 Pressure-Limiting Devices	152	1307.0 Authority Disconnect	175
1114.0 Pressure-Relief Devices	153	1308.0 Temporary Use of Gas	175
1115.0 Pressure-Relief Device Settings	153	1309.0 Gas Piping System Design, Materials, and Components	175
1116.0 Marking of Pressure-Relief Devices	154	1310.0 Venting of Gas Appliance Pressure Regulators	181
1117.0 Overpressure Protection	154	1311.0 Gas Piping Installation	181
1118.0 Discharge Piping	155	1312.0 Equipment Connections to Building Piping	188
1119.0 Special Discharge Requirements	155	1313.0 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Facilities and Piping	190
1120.0 Ammonia Discharge	155	1314.0 Pressure Testing and Inspection	190
1121.0 Detection and Alarm Systems	156	1315.0 Interconnection between Gas-Piping Systems	192
1122.0 Equipment Identification	156	1316.0 Required Gas Supply	192
1123.0 Testing of Refrigeration Equipment	156	1317.0 Required Gas Piping Size	192
1124.0 Maintenance and Operation	157	Part II—Fuel Supply: Manufactured/Mobile Home Parks and Recreational Vehicle Parks	214
1125.0 Storage of Refrigerants and Refrigerant Oils	157	1318.0 General	214
Part II—Cooling Towers	157	1319.0 Gas Supply Connections	214
1126.0 General	157	1320.0 Single and Multiple Manufactured Homesite Fuel Supply Systems	214
1127.0 Support and Anchorage	157	1321.0 Manufactured Homesite Gas Shutoff Valve	214
1128.0 Water Supply	157	1322.0 Gas Meters	214
1129.0 Drainage	157	1323.0 Multiple Manufactured Homesite Fuel Distribution and Supply Systems	215
1130.0 Chemical Treatment Systems	157	1324.0 Manufactured Home Community Natural Gas Distribution Systems	215
1131.0 Location	157	1325.0 Manufactured Home Community LP-Gas Supply Systems	215
1132.0 Electrical	157	1326.0 Installation of Cathodic Protection Systems	215
1133.0 Refrigerants and Hazardous Fluids	157	1327.0 Required Gas Supply	215
Chapter 12 Hydronics	163	1328.0 Gas Pipe Sizing and Pressure	215
Part I — Steam and Water Piping	163	1329.0 Gas Piping Materials	215
1201.0 Scope	163	1330.0 Gas Piping Installation	216
Part II — Hydronic Panel Heating Systems	170	1331.0 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Equipment	216
1202.0 Scope	170	1332.0 Oil Supply	216
1203.0 Installation	170	1333.0 Fuel Supply Systems Installation	217
1204.0 Piping Materials	170	1334.0 Manufactured Home Accessory Building Fuel Supply Systems	218
1205.0 Piping Joints	170		
1206.0 Heat Sources	170		
1207.0 Testing	171		
Chapter 13 Fuel Gas Piping	173		
Part I — Fuel Piping	173		
1301.0 Scope	173		

UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE

1335.0 Community Building Fuel Supply Systems in Manufactured Home Communities . . . . .	.218	Appendix A Uniform Mechanical Code Standard	
1336.0 Recreational Vehicle Park Fuel Gas Equipment and Installations . . . . .	.218	No. 6-5 . . . . .	.265
Chapter 14 Process Piping . . . . .	.219	A.6.501 Scope . . . . .	.265
1401.0 General . . . . .	.219	Part A — Rigid Ducts . . . . .	.265
1402.0 Definitions . . . . .	.219	A.6.502 General . . . . .	.265
1403.0 Permit . . . . .	.219	A.6.503 Closure Systems . . . . .	.265
1404.0 Plans Required . . . . .	.219	A.6.504 Reinforcement . . . . .	.267
1405.0 Workmanship . . . . .	.219	A.6.505 Fire Dampers . . . . .	.277
1406.0 Inspections . . . . .	.219	A.6.506 Hangers and Supports . . . . .	.278
1407.0 Piping and Tubing . . . . .	.220	Part B — Flexible Ducts . . . . .	.280
Chapter 15 Solar Systems . . . . .	.223	A.6.507 Suitable Installations . . . . .	.280
Chapter 16 Stationary Fuel Cell Power Plants . . . . .	.225	A.6.508 Connecting, Joining, and Splicing Flexible Duct . . . . .	.280
Chapter 17 Standards . . . . .	.227	A.6.509 Supporting Flexible Duct . . . . .	.282
Section 1701.0 Scope . . . . .	.227	A.6.510 Checklist . . . . .	.284
Part I — Standards Adopted as		Appendix B Procedures to Be Followed to Place	
Part of This Code . . . . .	.227	Gas Equipment in Operation . . . . .	.287
Part II - Referenced Standards . . . . .	.227	B.1.0 Adjusting the Burner Input . . . . .	.287
Appendices Table of Contents . . . . .	.243	B.2.0 Primary Air Adjustment . . . . .	.287
Appendix A Uniform Mechanical Code Standard		B.3.0 Safety Shutoff Devices . . . . .	.287
No. 2-2 . . . . .	.245	B.4.0 Automatic Ignition . . . . .	.287
A.2.201 Scope . . . . .	.245	B.5.0 Protective Devices . . . . .	.287
A.2.202 Base Metal Manufacture . . . . .	.245	B.6.0 Checking the Draft . . . . .	.287
A.2.203 Weight of Coating . . . . .	.245	B.7.0 Operating Instructions . . . . .	.287
A.2.204 Bend Test . . . . .	.245	Appendix C Installation and Testing of Oil	
A.2.205 Specimens for Triple-Spot Test . . . . .	.245	(Liquid) Fuel-Fired Equipment . . . . .	.289
A.2.206 Specimens for Single-Spot Test . . . . .	.245	C.1.0 General . . . . .	.289
A.2.207 Specimens for Base Metal Bend Test . . . . .	.245	C.2.0 Standards and Accepted Practices . . . . .	.290
A.2.208 Dimensional Requirements . . . . .	.245	C.3.0 Approval of Equipment . . . . .	.290
A.2.209 Defects . . . . .	.246	C.4.0 Placing Equipment in Operation . . . . .	.290
A.2.210 Rejection . . . . .	.246	C.5.0 Pilot Operation . . . . .	.290
Appendix A Uniform Mechanical Code Standard		C.6.0 Burner Operation . . . . .	.290
No. 6-2 . . . . .	.247	C.7.0 Method of Test . . . . .	.291
A.6.201 Scope . . . . .	.247	C.8.0 Reserved . . . . .	.292
A.6.202 Definitions . . . . .	.247	C.9.0 Special Requirements Based on Btu/h Input . . . . .	.292
A.6.203 Performance Requirements for Ducts . . . . .	.247	Appendix D Unit Conversion Tables . . . . .	.297
A.6.204 Support Requirements for Ducts . . . . .	.248	Index . . . . .	.303
A.6.205 Complying Systems . . . . .	.248		

CHAPTER 1

ADMINISTRATION

Part I — General

101.0 Title.

These regulations shall be known as the *Uniform Mechanical Code*, may be cited as such, and will be referred to herein as "this code."

102.0 Purpose.

The purpose of this code is to provide minimum standards to safeguard life or limb, health, property, and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, installation, quality of materials, location, operation, and maintenance or use of heating, ventilating, cooling, and refrigeration systems; incinerators; and other miscellaneous heat-producing appliances within this jurisdiction.

The purpose of this code is not to create or otherwise establish or designate any particular class or group of persons who will or should be especially protected or benefited by the terms of this code.

103.0 Scope.

The provisions of this code shall apply to the addition to or erection, installation, alteration, repair, relocation, replacement, use, or maintenance of any heating, ventilating, cooling, refrigeration systems; incinerators; or other miscellaneous heat-producing appliances within this jurisdiction.

Additions, alterations, repairs to, and replacement of equipment or systems shall comply with the provisions for new equipment and systems, except as otherwise provided in Section 104.0 of this code.

Where, in any specific case, different sections of this code specify different materials, methods of construction, or other requirements, the most restrictive shall govern. Where there is a conflict between a general requirement and a specific requirement, the specific requirement shall be applicable.

The design and testing of equipment regulated by this code shall be subject to the approval of the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

The standards contained in Appendix A shall be considered as part of this code. Appendices B and C contain recommended practices that shall not apply unless specifically adopted. Appendix D contains conversion tables and a table for determining the approximate minimum thickness for carbon sheet steel.

104.0 Application to Existing Mechanical Systems.

104.1 Additions, Alterations, or Repairs. Additions, alterations, or repairs may be made to any mechanical system without requiring the existing mechanical system to comply with all the requirements of this code, provided the addition, alteration, or repair conforms to that required for a new mechanical system. Additions, alterations, or repairs shall not cause an existing system to become unsafe or create unhealthy or overloaded conditions.

Minor additions, alterations, and repairs to existing mechanical systems may be installed in accordance with the law in effect at the time the original installation was made, when approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

104.2 Existing Installations. Mechanical systems lawfully in existence at the time of the adoption of this code may have their use, maintenance, or repair continued if the use, maintenance, or repair is in accordance with the original design and location and no hazard to life, health, or property has been created by such mechanical systems.

104.3 Changes in Building Occupancy. Mechanical systems that are a part of any building or structure undergoing a change in use or occupancy, as defined in the Building Code, shall comply with all requirements of this code that may be applicable to the new use or occupancy.

104.4 Maintenance. All mechanical systems, materials, and appurtenances, both existing and new, and all parts thereof shall be maintained in proper operating condition in accordance with the original design and in a safe and hazard-free condition. All devices or safeguards that are required by this code shall be maintained in conformance with the code edition under which installed. The owner or the owner's designated agent shall be responsible for maintenance of mechanical systems and equipment. To determine compliance with this subsection, the Authority Having Jurisdiction may cause a mechanical system or equipment to be reinspected.

104.5 Moved Buildings. Mechanical systems or equipment that is a part of buildings or structures moved into or within this jurisdiction shall comply with the provisions of this code for new installations.

105.0 Alternate Materials and Methods of Construction.

The provisions of this code are not intended to prevent the use of any material or method of construction not