

AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD
IAPMO/ANSI UMC 1 – 2015

2015 UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE[®]



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2015 **UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE**[®]

AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD
IAPMO/ANSI UMC 1 – 2015



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The 2015 edition of the *Uniform Mechanical Code* is developed through a consensus standards development process approved by the American National Standards Institute. This process brings together volunteers representing varied viewpoints and interests to achieve consensus on mechanical issues. While the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) administers the process and establishes rules to promote fairness in the development of consensus, it does not independently test, evaluate, or verify the accuracy of any information or the soundness of any judgments contained in its codes and standards.

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To access the code information pages for a specific code, go to <http://codes.iapmo.org> to select from the list of IAPMO codes. For Tentative Interim Amendments, go to the standard council decisions. For Errata select the archived revision information.

FOREWORD

Origin and Development

The industry has long recognized the advantages of a statewide adopted mechanical code. The first edition of the *Uniform Mechanical Code*[™] (UMC[™]) was adopted by IAPMO in 1967. The widespread use of this code over the past five decades by jurisdictions throughout the United States and internationally is testament to its merit.

Publishing the 2003 *Uniform Mechanical Code*, is a significant milestone because it is the first time in the history of the United States, a mechanical code was developed through a true consensus process. The 2015 edition represents the most current approaches in the mechanical field and is the fifth edition developed under the ANSI consensus process. Contributions to the content of this code consists of diverse interests as consumers, enforcing authorities, installers/maintainers, labor, manufacturers, research/standards/testing laboratories, special experts, and users.

The *Uniform Mechanical Code* provides consumers with 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. The public at large is invited and encouraged to take part in IAPMO's open consensus code development process. This code is updated every three years. 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 *Uniform Mechanical Code* updates every three years in revision cycles that begin twice each year that takes two years to complete.

Each revision cycle advances according to a published schedule that includes final dates for all major events and contains four basic steps as follows:

1. Public and Committee Proposal Stage;
2. Comment Stage;
3. Association Technical Meeting;
4. Council Appeals and Issuance of Code.

IAPMO develops "full consensus" codes built on a foundation of maximum participation and agreement by a broad range of interests. This philosophy has led to producing technically sound codes that promote health and safety, yet do not stifle design or development.

It is important to stress that, the process remains committed to the principles of consensus code development where consensus Technical Committees and Correlating Committees revise codes. The public and membership is offered multiple opportunities to debate, provide input and raise concerns through Amending Motions at the annual Assembly Consideration Session. Anyone may submit an appeal related to the issuance of a document through the IAPMO Standards Council.

The 2015 *Uniform Mechanical Code* is supported by the American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE), the Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA), the 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 indicate the support of IAPMO's open consensus process being used to develop IAPMO's codes and standards.

The addresses of the organizations are as follows:

ASSE – 18927 Hickory Creek Drive, Suite 220 • Mokena, IL 60448 • (708) 995-3019

MCAA – 1385 Piccard Drive • Rockville, MD 20850 • (301) 869-5800

PHCC-NA – PO Box 6808 • Falls Church, VA 22046 • (800) 533-7694

UA – Three Park Place • Annapolis, MD 21401 • (410) 269-2000

WPC – World Plumbing Council Secretariat, 353 Shepperton Road • East Victoria Park 6101
• Western Australia • +61 (439) 943-098

Adoption

The *Uniform Mechanical Code* is available for adoption and use by jurisdictions in the United States and Internationally. Its use within a governmental jurisdiction is accomplished through adoption by reference in accordance with applicable jurisdictional laws. At adoption, jurisdictions should insert the applicable information in bracketed words in the sample ordinance. The sample legislation for adoption of the *Uniform Mechanical Code* on page xi provides key components, regulations and resolutions.

Revision Markings

Solid vertical lines in the margins indicate a technical change from the requirements of the 2012 edition. An arrow (←) in the margin indicates where an entire section, paragraph, exception or table has been deleted, or an item in a list of items or a table has been deleted.

A double right angle (◄◄) in the margin indicates that the text or a table has been relocated within the code. The table found on page xiii points out the relocations in the 2015 edition of the *Uniform Mechanical Code*.

A reference in brackets [] following a section or paragraph indicates material that has been extracted from another document. This reprinted material is not the complete and official position of the source document on the referenced subject that is represented by the standard in its entirety.

Text that is extracted pursuant to IAPMO's Extract Guidelines, but outside of the regular revision process is denoted with the use of the source document in the margin. This text is not fully processed by IAPMO in accordance with ANSI's public announcement consensus requirements for an American National Standard (ANS) nor approved by ANSI's Board of Standards Review. The next revision cycle processes such text in accordance with those requirements.

FORMAT OF THE UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE

The format of the *Uniform Mechanical Code* (UMC) arranges each chapter in accordance with a specific subject matter. However, Chapter 3 is dedicated to general requirements that are applicable to every chapter. The subject matters are divided as follows:

CHAPTERS	SUBJECTS
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2	Definitions
3	General Regulations
4	Ventilation Air
5	Exhaust Systems
6	Duct Systems
7	Combustion Air
8	Chimneys and Vents
9	Installation of Specific Appliances
10	Boilers and Pressure Vessels
11	Refrigeration
12	Hydronics
13	Fuel Gas Piping
14	Process Piping
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16	Stationary Power Plants
17	Referenced Standards
Appendix A	Residential Plan Examiner Review Form for HVAC System Design
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Appendix E	Sustainable Practices
Appendix F	Sizing of Venting Systems and Outdoor Combustion and Ventilation Opening Design
Appendix G	Example Calculation of Outdoor Air Rate

The following is a summary of the scope and intent of the provisions addressed within the chapters and appendices of the *Uniform Mechanical Code*:

Chapter 1 Administration.

Chapter 1 regulates the application, enforcement, and administration of subsequent requirements of the code. As well as establishing the scope of the code, this chapter is concerned with enforcing the requirements contained in the body of the code. A mechanical code, as with any other code, is intended to be adopted as a legally enforceable document to safeguard health, safety, property and public welfare. The code cannot be effective without satisfactory provisions for its administration and enforcement. The Authority Having Jurisdiction is to review the proposed and completed work and to decide whether a mechanical system conforms to the code requirements. As a public servant, the Authority Having Jurisdiction enforces the code in an unbiased, proper manner. The design professional is responsible for the design of a safe mechanical system. The contractor is responsible for installing the system in accordance with the plans.

Chapter 2 Definitions.

To maintain consistency and encourage the use of common terminology, Chapter 2 establishes definitions to provide clarity of terms and promote the use of a common language throughout the code. Understanding definitions within the context of their application enables greater collaboration, efficiency, standardization and interpretation in applying and enforcing terms used throughout the code. Codes are technical documents, and every term can impact the meaning of the code text. Terms not defined have a normally accepted meaning.

Chapter 3 General Regulations.

Chapter 3 regulates the general requirements, not specific to other chapters, for installing mechanical systems. Many regulations are not specific mechanical requirements, but relate to the overall mechanical system. This chapter contains safety requirements for appliance location and installation, appliance and system access, condensate disposal, and clearances to combustibles, and return or outside air used in mechanical systems. Listing or labeling method of approval, based on applicable nationally recognized standards, for the safe and proper installation of mechanical systems is essential to ensure protection of public health, safety, and welfare. The safety requirements provide protection for piping, material, and structures, with provisions for installation practices, removing stress and strain of the pipe, sleeving, and hanger support. The building's structural stability is protected by the regulations for cutting and notching of structural members.

Chapter 4 Ventilation Air.

Chapter 4 regulates the minimum requirements for ventilation air supply, exhaust, and makeup air for spaces within a building. Building ventilation is one important factor affecting the relationship between airborne transmission of respiratory infections and the health and productivity of workers. Ventilation air may be composed of mechanical or natural ventilation, infiltration, recirculated air, transfer air, or a suitable combination of that. Providing a comfortable and healthy indoor environment for building occupants is of primary concern. When considering how much ventilation should be supplied, typical and unusual significant sources of indoor pollution need to be controlled. Areas such as kitchens, bathrooms, and laundries are all built to allow specific functions. These spaces produce pollutants such as moisture, odors, volatile organic compounds, particles, or combustion byproducts. The purpose of local exhaust is to control concentrates of these pollutants in the room into which they were emitted in and to reduce the spread of the pollutants into other parts of the occupancy. Local exhaust ventilation is the source control for pollution that is expected in certain rooms. Using local exhaust to extract contaminants before they can mix with the indoor environment is essential.

Chapter 5 Exhaust Systems.

Chapter 5 regulates the minimum requirements for exhaust systems. Chapter 5 contains two parts: part I provides exhaust requirements for environmental air ducts and product conveying ducts; part II provides exhaust requirements for commercial kitchens. Environmental air ducts include exhaust ducts used for transporting the air from domestic kitchens, bathrooms, and clothes dryers. Systems that carry nonabrasive exhaust, such as smoke, moderately abrasives such as sawdust, and high abrasives such as manganese or acid vapors use product-conveying ducts. Part II provides the minimum fire safety requirements related to the design, installation, inspection, and maintenance of grease-type operations, such as cooking, for both fuel-gas and solid fuel. Cooking produces a significant amount of smoke, fumes, vapors, heat, and other pollutants. Therefore, acceptable kitchen ventilation is necessary to provide the occupants protection from smoke, unpleasant odors, pollutants, dangerous gases, and to prevent fires from the build-up of grease.

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Chapter 6 Duct Systems.

Chapter 6 regulates requirements for ducts and plenums that are portions of a heating, cooling, absorption or evaporative cooling, or exhaust system. This chapter contains material and installation requirements for metal, gypsum, factory-made, flexible, and plastic ducts. It also contains fire protection requirements, smoke dampers, and automatic shutoff for the building's air distribution system.

Chapter 7 Combustion Air.

Chapter 7 regulates combustion air requirements for the ventilation and dilution of flue gases for appliances installed in buildings. It applies to fuel-gas appliances except for direct vent appliances and clothes dryers. Chapter 5 provides makeup air for clothes dryers. Chapter 7 provides acceptable methods for supplying satisfactory combustion air to ensure proper combustion. Combustion air can be supplied by using indoor combustion air or by introducing the air from the outdoors.

Combustion is the rapid oxidation of fuel to release energy. The oxygen required to release the energy from the fuel normally comes from the air. Incomplete combustion of fuel occurs when inadequate oxygen is provided to the appliance. Combustion is needed to provide ventilation cooling for the casing and internal controls. When a lack of oxygen occurs, some of the carbon is not oxidized, and carbon monoxide forms.

Chapter 8 Chimneys and Vents.

Chapter 8 regulates the installation, design, and construction of venting systems for fuel-burning appliances. The provisions addressed within this chapter follow procedures an installer would use to design or evaluate a venting system. Many requirements apply to the design and construction of venting systems, chimneys, installation of gas vents, and the sizing of venting system for a Category I appliance. Sizing venting systems require rigorous engineering calculations. However, the venting sizing requirements and sizing tables in this chapter already perform the calculations for the benefit of the end user.

Combustion appliances produce products of incomplete combustion, including potentially harmful carbon monoxide (CO). It is desirable to vent these products to the outdoors. Although the gas is clean-burning fuel, the products of combustion must not be allowed to collect within a building.

Chapter 9 Installation of Specific Appliances.

Chapter 9 regulates the minimum requirements for the design, construction and installation of specific appliances. The provisions address the minimum requirements for gas-fired appliances, oil-fired appliances, wood-fired appliances, and electric-type appliances. In addition to the requirements of this chapter, appliances are also required to comply with the general requirements of Chapter 3.

Chapter 10 Boilers and Pressure Vessels.

Chapter 10 regulates the construction, installation, operation, repair, and alteration of boilers and pressure vessels. A low-pressure boiler provides steam at a pressure that does not exceed 15 psig, a gauge pressure more than 160 psi (1103 kPa) or heats water to a temperature more than 250°F (121°C). Potable water heaters are free from the requirements of Chapter 10 as they are within the scope of the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC).

Pressure vessels store large amounts of energy and must comply with ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (BPVC) Section VIII. The stored energy must be contained to prevent disastrous failures. Boilers must comply with ASME BPVC Section 1, ASME BPVC Section IV, or NFPA 85. Installing a safety relief valve and expansion tank prevents pressures in the tank from exceeding the design threshold.

Chapter 11 Refrigeration.

Chapter 11 regulates the design, installation, and construction requirements of refrigeration systems and the installation and construction of cooling towers. Refrigeration is a method used for achieving heat transfer to cool spaces. Refrigerants are the most common medium used to transfer the heat energy from the low-temperature level to the high-temperature level. Table 1102.1 lists the most commonly used refrigerants and is labeled by a number. The concentration limits provided in Table 1102.1 are useful for the quantity of refrigerant required to cool a volume of space safely.

In addition, Chapter 11 addresses other minimum requirements for refrigeration systems such as refrigeration machinery rooms (including ventilation), relief valves, and pressure vessels. Apart from refrigerants, the chapter also addresses

minimum requirements for systems that use other mediums such as ammonia and brine systems. For ammonia systems, such systems are required to comply with IIAR 2, IIAR 3, or IIAR 5.

Chapter 12 Hydronics.

Chapter 12 regulates hydronic systems that are part of heating, cooling, ventilation, and conditioning systems. Such piping systems include steam, hot water, chilled water, steam condensate, and the ground source heat pumps systems. The ground source heat pumps provisions in this chapter apply to the hydronics portions of the system. It is worth noting the Uniform Solar Energy & Hydronics Code (USEHC) address added provisions for ground source heat pumps in its geothermal energy system chapter.

Materials for piping and tubing must meet the working temperature and pressure of the system. In addition, materials must be compatible with the transfer medium to prevent deformation, bursting, or any chemical action between the material and the transfer medium. The allowable joining methods for piping or tubing are provided for application and enforcement purposes.

Chapter 13 Fuel Gas Piping.

Chapter 13 regulates gas piping systems in a building, structure or within the property lines of buildings up to 5 psi. Gas piping systems must supply the minimum volume of gas required by each gas appliance to perform their proper operation under working conditions without exceeding the maximum pressure specified by each manufacturer. Because of the hazards associated with fuel gas, it is important to ensure the gas system has been inspected and tested, and that it is safe to turn on the gas supply to the building.

Chapter 14 Process Piping.

Chapter 14 regulates process piping that typically is found in refineries. Process piping is considered the piping or tubing portion that transports liquid or gas, which is used directly in research, laboratory, or production process. This chapter may be used with another chapter of the code. For example, refrigeration piping, fuel gas piping, or fuel oil piping may need to comply with this chapter for process piping and the applicable chapter for materials, design, and installation.

Chapter 15 Solar Energy Systems.

Chapter 15 refers the user to the Uniform Solar Energy and Hydronics Code (USEHC) for installations about solar energy systems. Reference is also made to Section 1203.0 as the heat source provisions are applicable to solar energy systems.

Chapter 16 Stationary Power Plants.

This chapter provides minimum requirements for stationary fuel cell power plants. A fuel cell is a device that produces electricity by a chemical reaction. Fuel cells have been used mostly for satellites. However, the costs of fuel cells have decreased to a point where they are now economically attainable. With the increase in electricity costs, fuel cells are being considered as an alternative for producing electricity.

Chapter 17 Referenced Standards.

Chapter 17 provides a comprehensive list of referenced standards. Referenced standards set forth specific details of accepted practices, materials specifications, or test methods in many specialized applications. Standards provide an efficient method of conveying complex information and specifications on the performance requirements for materials, products, systems, application, and installation. The manner and purpose for a standard's use and, in turn, code compliance, must be definitive in all references to the standard. If the standard is intended to be a requirement for judging code compliance, the code must state its intent for use. The standard should adequately address a defined need and at the same time specify the minimum performance requirements, technical characteristics and methods of testing, and required test results.

The referenced standards table is organized in a manner that makes it easy to find specific standards in alphabetical order, and by acronym of the publishing agency of the standard. The table lists the title of the standard, the edition, any addenda, and the section or sections of the code that reference the standard. Contact information for each publishing agency is provided at the end of the chapter.

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Appendix A Residential Plan Examiner Review Form for HVAC System Design.

A residential plan examiner review form is located in this appendix as an example to assist users in identifying whether the HVAC system has followed the approved procedures for system design (loads, equipment, and ducts).

Appendix B Procedures to be Followed to Place Gas Equipment in Operation.

Appendix B provides requirements for the procedures that apply after an appliance is installed in place, piped, and connected to its venting system. The requirements include adjusting the burner input, air adjustments, verifying operation of safety shutoffs, automatic ignition, and protective devices, checking draft for vent-connected appliances, and operating instructions.

Appendix C Installation and Testing of Oil (Liquid) Fuel-Fired Equipment.

Appendix C governs the installation, testing, or repair of oil or liquid fuel-burning equipment used in buildings or structures and equipment.

Appendix D Fuel Supply: Manufactured/Mobile Home Parks and Recreational Vehicle Parks.

The provisions of this appendix apply to the fuel gas piping systems of mobile home and recreational vehicle parks. These provisions also apply to the use, maintenance, and installation for supplying fuel gas for accessory buildings or structures, and building components.

Appendix E Sustainable Practices.

This appendix provides a comprehensive set of technically sound provisions that encourage sustainable practices and works toward improving the design and construction of mechanical systems that result in a positive long-term environmental impact. Environmental sustainability is important because it involves natural resources that human beings need for economic or manufactured capital. Their sustainability is defined by their reliance on infinitely available resources that are naturally occurring, constant, and free to access.

Appendix F Sizing of Venting Systems and Outdoor Combustion and Ventilation Opening Design.

Appendix F provides added information on the sizing of gas vents. This appendix is useful to the end user for the proper sizing of venting systems. A series of examples are given that show how to use the tables and other requirements of Chapter 8. In addition, Appendix F shows an example of how to determine the required combination of indoor and outdoor combustion air opening sizes for appliances under Chapter 7. The combustion air example also provides a table that contains the required volume of space per the appliance BTU/h input based on the standard method.

Appendix G Example Calculation of Outdoor Air Rate.

Appendix G gives an example of how to calculate the required outdoor air rate under Chapter 4.

SAMPLE LEGISLATION FOR ADOPTION OF THE UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE

The Uniform Codes are designed to be adopted by jurisdictions through an ordinance. Jurisdictions wishing to adopt the 2015 *Uniform Mechanical Code* as an enforceable regulation governing mechanical systems should ensure the legal basis under which adoption and implementation are included in the ordinance.

The following sample ordinance is a guide for drafting an ordinance for adoption that addresses key components regulations and resolutions.

ORDINANCE NO.

An ordinance of the [JURISDICTION] adopting the 2015 edition of the *Uniform Mechanical Code*, regulating the design, construction, quality of materials, erection, installation, alteration, repair, location, relocation, replacement, addition to, use or maintenance of mechanical systems in the [JURISDICTION]; providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees therefor; repealing Ordinance No. of the [JURISDICTION] and all other ordinances and parts of the ordinances in conflict therewith.

The [GOVERNING BODY] of the [JURISDICTION] does ordain as follows:

Section 1 Codes Adopted by Reference. That certain documents, three (3) copies of which are on file in the office of the [JURISDICTION'S KEEPER OF RECORDS] and the [JURISDICTION], being marked and designated as the 2015 *Uniform Mechanical Code*, including Appendix Chapters [FILL IN THE APPENDIX CHAPTERS BEING ADOPTED], as published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, be and is hereby adopted as the Code of the [JURISDICTION], in the State of [STATE NAME] regulating and controlling the design, construction, quality of materials, erection, installation, alteration, repair, location, relocation, replacement, addition to, use or maintenance of mechanical systems as herein provided; providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees therefor; and each and all of the regulations, provisions, penalties, conditions and terms of such 2015 *Uniform Mechanical Code* on file in the office of the [JURISDICTION] are hereby referred to, adopted, and made a part hereof, as if fully set out in this ordinance.

Section 2 Modifications. The following sections are hereby revised:

Section 101.1. Insert: [NAME OF JURISDICTION]

Section 104.5. Insert: [APPROPRIATE FEE SCHEDULE]

Section 3 Conflicting Ordinances Repealed. That Ordinance No. of [JURISDICTION] entitled [TITLE OF THE ORDINANCE OR ORDINANCES IN EFFECT AT THE PRESENT TIME SO THAT THEY WILL BE REPEALED BY MENTION] and all other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 4 Severability. That if any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The [GOVERNING BODY] hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses and phrases be declared unconstitutional.

Section 5 Legal Notice. That the [JURISDICTION'S KEEPER OF RECORDS] is hereby ordered and directed to cause this ordinance to be published. (An additional provision may be required to direct the number of times the ordinance is to be published and to specify that it is to be in a newspaper in general circulation. Posting may also be required.)

Section 6 Violations and Penalties. [INCORPORATE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS]

Section 7 Effective Date. That this ordinance and the rules, regulations, provisions, requirements, orders and matters established and adopted hereby shall take effect and be in full force and effect [TIME PERIOD] from and after the date of its final passage and adoption.

COMMITTEE ON UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE

These lists represent the membership at the time the Committee was balloted on the final text of this edition. Since that time, changes in the membership may have occurred.

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Hugo Aguilar, IAPMO Staff Liaison

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION ABBREVIATIONS

These classifications apply to Technical Committee members and represent their principal interest in the activity of a committee.

- M** *Manufacturer*: A representative of a maker or marketer of a product, assembly or system, or portion thereof, that is affected by the standard.
- U** *User*: A representative of an entity that is subject to the provisions of the standard or that voluntarily uses the standard.
- I/M** *Installer/Maintainer*: A representative of an entity that is in the business of installing or maintaining a product, assembly or system affected by the standard.
- L** *Labor*: A labor representative or employee concerned with safety in the workplace.
- R/S/T** *Research/Standards/Testing Laboratory*: A representative of an independent research organization; an organization that develops codes, standards or other similar documents; or an independent testing laboratory.
- E** *Enforcing Authority*: A representative or an agency or an organization that promulgates and/or enforces standards.
- C** *Consumer*: A person who is, or represents, the ultimate purchaser of a product, system, or service affected by the standard, but who is not included in the *User* classification.
- SE** *Special Expert*: A person not representing any of the previous classifications, but who has special expertise in the scope of the standard or portion thereof.

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