

**AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A MECHANICAL CODE
FOR THE CITY OF MOBILE, ALABAMA**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOBILE, ALABAMA as follows:

SECTION ONE: That, pursuant to Alabama Code Section 11-44-8 (1975), the 2000 Edition of the International Mechanical Code, along with the amendments to the same contained in this Ordinance, has been on file in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Mobile, Alabama, pursuant to a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Mobile, Alabama, on May 15, 2001, is hereby adopted as the "Mechanical Code of the City of Mobile."

SECTION TWO: A copy of this Ordinance shall be published pursuant and according to law, after its adoption, but it shall not be necessary for the said 2000 International Mechanical Code to be published in a newspaper, nor shall the same be spread at length upon the minutes of this Council, but this Ordinance shall be recorded in said minutes.

SECTION THREE: The said 2000 International Mechanical Code shall be in full force and effect on and after the 12th day of June, 2001, and all ordinances heretofore adopted by the City of Mobile in conflict are hereby repealed.

SECTION FOUR: Chapter 1 of the 2000 International Mechanical Code shall be amended as follows:

Amend Section 101 as follows:

Change Section 101.1 to read as follows:

101.1 Title. These regulations shall be known as the Mechanical Code of City of Mobile, Alabama, hereinafter referred to as "this code."

Change Section 101.2 to read as follows:

101.2 Scope. This code shall regulate the design, installation, maintenance, alteration and inspection of mechanical systems that are permanently installed and utilized to provide control of environmental conditions and related processes within buildings. This code shall also regulate those mechanical systems, system components, equipment and appliances specifically addressed in herein. ~~The installation of fuel gas distribution piping and equipment, fuel gas fired appliances and fuel gas fired appliance venting systems shall be regulated by the International Fuel Gas Code.~~

Change Section 101.2.1 to read as follows:

101.2.1 Appendices. Appendix A 2000 International Mechanical Code is hereby adopted for use in this Code. Appendix B of the 2000 International Mechanical Code is not adopted for use in this Code.

Amend Section 102 as follows:

Amend 102.6 as follows:

102.6 Historic Buildings. The provisions of this code relating to the construction, alteration, repair, enlargement, restoration, relocation or moving of buildings or structures shall not be mandatory for existing buildings or structures identified and classified by the state or local jurisdiction as historic buildings, including those listed on the National Register of Historic Places or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, when such buildings or structures are judged by the Mechanical Official to be safe and in the public interest of health, safety and welfare regarding any proposed construction, alteration, repair, enlargement, restoration, relocation or moving of buildings.

Amend Section 104 as follows:

Add 104.9 - Contractor's Responsibilities to read as follows:

104.9 Contractor's Responsibilities. It shall be the duty of every contractor who shall make contracts for the installation of mechanical systems for which a permit is required, and every contractor making such contracts and sub-letting the same, or any part thereof, to pay a license tax as provided in the general license ordinance, and to register his/her name with the ~~Building~~ Mechanical Official, in a book provided for that purpose, giving full name, residence and place of business, and, in case of removal from one place to another to have made corresponding change in said register accordingly; and it shall be the further duty of every such person to give good and sufficient bond in the amount of \$10,000, provided by a surety company qualified to do business in the State of Alabama, from an agent thereof with office in the City of Mobile, approved by the Legal Department, and conditioned to conform to the building regulations, the regulation of this section, and other ordinances or laws of the applicable governing body.

Add 104.9.1 – Certification Required to read as follows:

104.9.1 Certification required. In addition to requirements set out in 104.9, before any person, firm, or corporation shall engage in the HVAC business, he/she shall hold the active certification card issued by the Alabama State Board of Heating and Air Conditioning Contractors.

Add 104.9.2 - Vehicular Signs to read as follows :

104.9.2 Vehicular Signs. All trucks and similar vehicles used by mechanical contractors shall have signs on both sides of the body, including the full name, address, and phone number of the firm to which it belongs. Lettering may be any color in contrast to the color of the body, but letters must be 1 1/2 inches high on firm's name.

Amend Section 106 as follows:

Change Section 106.5.2 as follows:

106.5.2 Fee schedule. The fees for mechanical work shall be as indicated in the following schedule:

- a. Each permit shall be assessed a \$1.00 computer usage fee.
- b. Installation of air-conditioning and/or heating systems in single-family residences:

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| First system | \$30.00 |
| Each additional system | \$10.00 |
- c. Installation of air-conditioning and/or heating systems in apartments, per apartment:
\$15.00
- d. Installation of air-conditioning and/or heating systems in duplexes: \$40.00
- e. Installation of air-conditioning and/or heating systems in commercial buildings:
Issuance fee of \$10.00 plus \$30.00 per tenant space up to five (5) tons.
Each system over five (5) tons and less than 100 tons is \$4.00 per ton.
For systems 100 tons and over, the permit fee is \$400.00 plus \$2.00 per ton over 100 tons (including 1/2 tons).
- f. Replacement of air handlers, condensing units and cooling towers only, in commercial buildings, shall require a fee of one-half (1/2) that of systems (see "e") with a minimum fee of \$30.00.

- g. Replacements of heating unit, evaporator coil, heating unit and evaporator coil, condensing unit or a/c add-on in single family residence: \$15.00

If heating unit, evaporator coil and condensing unit are replaced at the same time, the fee shall be the same as new installation (see “b”).

- h. Replacement of heating and/or air conditioning equipment in multi-family dwellings shall require a permit fee of \$15.00 per tenant space.

- i. Boiler installation and replacement based on BTU input as follows:

| | |
|--|---------|
| 33,000 BTU (1 BHP) to 165,000 (5 BHP) | \$10.00 |
| 165,001 BTU (5 BHP) to 330,000 (10 BHP) | 15.00 |
| 330,001 BTU (10 BHP to 1,165,000 (52 BHP) | 25.00 |
| 1,165,001 BTU (52 BHP) to 3,300,000 (98 BHP) | 35.00 |
| Over 3,300,000 (98 BHP) | 45.00 |

- j. Commercial exhaust hoods (canopy): \$20.00

- k. Restroom exhaust fans:
Commercial (per tenant space) \$10.00
Residential (per fan) 2.50

- l. Relocation of equipment (i.e., condenser from roof to ground, etc.) \$20.00

- m. In multi-family or commercial buildings where self-contained units of less than two (2) tons are to be installed, the fee charged shall be based on the total tonnage of all units combined (see “e”).

- n. Adding or changing ductwork:

Residential:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| First System | \$15.00 |
| Additional systems (each) | 5.00 |

Commercial:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| First System | \$30.00 |
| Additional systems (each) | 10.00 |

- o. Investigation Fee: \$10.00

- p. In the event a re-inspection is necessary, the inspector may invoke a re-inspection fee of ~~\$15.00.~~ \$25.00.
- q. If a job commences before a permit is obtained, the fee shall be doubled.
- r. Weekend and emergency inspections

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| First hour - | \$50.00 |
| Each additional hour - | \$25.00 |

NOTE: Fees for any City of Mobile projects will be waived. Any equipment change-outs (replacements units) will be brought up to meet the Mechanical Code.

Amend Section 108 as follows:

Amend Section 108.4 as follows:

108.4 Violation penalties. Persons who shall violate a provision of this code or shall fail to comply with any of the requirements thereof or who shall erect, install, alter or repair mechanical work in violation of the approved construction documents or directive of the Mechanical Official, or of a permit or certificate issued under the provisions of this code, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable ~~by a fine of not more than [AMOUNT] dollars or by imprisonment not exceeding [NUMBER OF DAYS]~~ in accordance with Chapter 1 of the Mobile City Code. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense.

Amend Section 109 as follows:

Amend 109.2 as follows:

109.2 Membership of board. There is hereby established a Board to be called the Board of Appeals, which shall consist of seven (7) members, who shall be the duly elected and qualified Council Members of the City of Mobile.

SECTION FIVE: Chapter 3 of the 2000 International Mechanical Code shall be amended to read as follows:

Amend Section 301 as follows:

Amend 301.2 as follows:

301.2 Energy utilization. Heating, ventilating and air-conditioning systems of all structures shall be designed and installed for efficient utilization of energy ~~in accordance with the International Energy Conservation Code.~~

Amend 303.3 as follows:

303.3 Prohibited locations. Fuel-fired appliances shall not be located in, or obtain combustion air from, any of the following rooms or spaces:

1. Sleeping rooms.
2. Bathrooms.
3. Toilet rooms.
4. Storage closets.
5. Surgical rooms.

EXCEPTION: This section shall not apply to the following appliances:

1. Direct-vent appliances that obtain all combustion air directly from the outdoors.
2. Solid fuel-fired appliances, provided that the room is not a confined space and the building is not of unusually tight construction.
3. Appliances installed in a dedicated enclosure in which all combustion air is taken directly from the outdoors, in accordance with §M703. Access to such enclosure shall be through a solid door, weather-stripped ~~in accordance with the exterior door air leakage requirements of the International Energy Conservation Code~~ and equipped with an approved self-closing device.

Amend Section 312 as follows:

Amend 312.1 as follows:

312.1 Load calculations. Heating and cooling system design loads for the purpose of sizing systems, appliances and equipment shall be determined in accordance with the procedures described in the ASHRAE Handbook of Fundamentals or an equivalent computation procedure. ~~using the design parameters specified in Chapter E3 of the International Energy Conservation Code.~~

SECTION SIX: Chapter 5 of the 2000 International Mechanical Code shall be amended to read as follows:

Amend Section 501 as follows:

Change 501.3 as follows:

501.3 Outdoor Discharge. The air removed by every mechanical exhaust system shall be discharged outdoors at a point where it will not cause a nuisance and from which it cannot again be readily drawn in by a ventilating system. ~~Exhausting air into an attic or crawl space shall be prohibited. Air which is to be used for re-circulation may be discharged to a supply system.~~ Air shall not be exhausted into an attic or crawl space.

~~***Exceptions:** Attic fans may be permitted to discharge into attic space of residences having private attics. Restroom exhaust fans may be permitted to discharge into attic space of residences having private attics.~~

EXCEPTIONS: Whole-house ventilation-type attic fans that discharge into the attic space of dwelling units having private attics shall not be prohibited. Restroom exhaust fans may be permitted to discharge into attic space of residences having private attics.

SECTION SEVEN: Chapter 6 of the 2000 International Mechanical Code shall be amended to read as follows:

Amend Section 604 as follows:

Delete 604.1 in its entirety.

~~**604.1 — General.** Duct insulation shall conform to the requirements of M604.2 through 604.11 and the International Energy Conservation Code.~~

Add 604.14 as follows:

604.14 Insulated ducts and plenums. Insulated ducts and plenums (factory made only) shall have a thermal resistance® value of 4.2 minimum based on flat sections of insulation only excluding any air film resistance. The thermal resistance value of 4.2 minimum based on flat sections of insulation only excluding any air film resistance. The thermal resistance® value shall be determined in accordance with Appendix C. All field (not factory) applied insulation shall be a minimum 2 inches (2”) thick, three-fourths (3/4) pound density blanket or one inch (1”) thick, one and one-half (1-1/2) pound density liner.

SECTION EIGHT: Chapter 7 of the 2000 International Mechanical Code shall be amended to read as follows:

Amend Section 701 as follows:

Amend 701.1 as follows:

701.1 Scope. The provisions of this chapter shall govern the requirements for combustion and dilution air for fuel-burning appliances other than gas-fired appliances. ~~The requirements for combustion and dilution air for gas-fired appliances shall be in accordance with the International Fuel Gas Code.~~

SECTION NINE: Chapter 8 of the 2000 International Mechanical Code shall be amended to read as follows:

Amend Section 801 as follows:

Amend 801.1 as follows:

801.1 Scope. This chapter shall govern the installation, maintenance, repair and approval of factory-built chimneys, chimney liners, vents and connectors. This chapter shall also govern the utilization of masonry chimneys. Gas-fired appliances shall be vented in accordance with the **GAMA TABLES for venting.** ~~International Fuel Gas Code~~

SECTION TEN: Chapter 9 of the 2000 International Mechanical Code shall be amended to read as follows:

Amend Section 901 as follows:

Amend 901.1 as follows:

901.1 Scope. This chapter shall govern the approval, design, installation, construction, maintenance, alteration and repair of the appliances and equipment specifically identified herein and factory-built fireplaces. ~~The approval, design, installation, construction, maintenance, alteration and repair of gas-fired appliances shall be regulated by the International Fuel Gas Code.~~

Amend Section 906 as follows:

Amend 906.1 as follows:

906.1 General. Factory-built barbecue appliances shall be of an approved type and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions and this chapter ~~and Chapter M3, Chapter M5, Chapter M7, Chapter M8 and the International Fuel Gas Code.~~

SECTION ELEVEN: Chapter 12 of the 2000 International Mechanical Code shall be amended to read as follows:

Amend Section 1204 as follows:

Amend 1204.1 as follows:

1204.1 Insulation characteristics. Pipe insulation installed in buildings shall ~~conform to the requirements of the International Energy Conservation Code, shall~~ be tested in the composite form in accordance with ASTM E 84 and shall have a maximum flame spread index of 25 and a smoke-developed index not exceeding 450. Insulation installed in an air plenum shall comply with M602.2.1.

EXCEPTION: The maximum flame spread index and smoke-developed index shall not apply to one-and two-family dwellings.

Delete 1204.2 in its entirety.

~~**1204.2 — Required thickness.** Hydronic piping shall be insulated to the thickness required by the International Energy Conservation Code.~~

SECTION TWELVE: SEPARATION CLAUSE

If any section, sub-section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Code is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Code. The City Council of the City of Mobile hereby declares that it would have passed this Code and each section, subsection, clause or phase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences or phrases be declared unconstitutional.

ADOPTED: June 12, 2001

/s/ Glenda A. Morgan, City Clerk