

CODES UPDATE



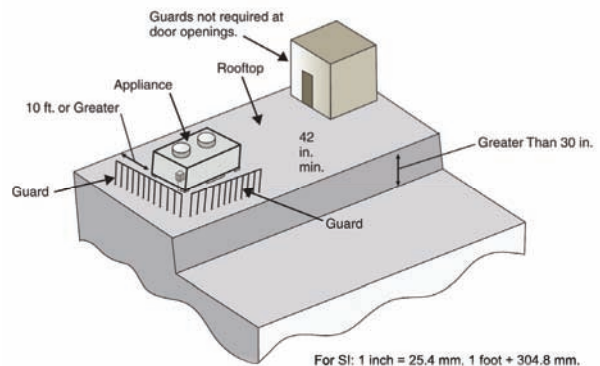
Excerpted from *Significant Changes to the 2006 International Plumbing Code, 2006 International Mechanical Code and 2006 International Fuel Gas Code*. The Significant Changes series of books have been developed by the International Code Council and published by Thomson-Delmar Learning to accommodate the transition from the 2003 editions of the International Codes to the 2006 editions. To purchase books in the series, visit the Code Council website at www.iccsafe.org/e/category.html.

International Mechanical Code

SUBJECT: Guards

CHANGE TYPE: Addition

304.10 Guards. Guards shall be provided where appliances, equipment, fans, or other components that require service and roof hatch openings are located within 10 feet (3048 mm) of a roof edge or open side of a walking surface and such edge or open side is located more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor, roof or grade below. The guard shall extend not less than 30 inches (762 mm) beyond each end of such appliances, equipment, fans, components, and roof hatch openings and the top of the guard shall be located not less than 42 inches (1067 mm) above the elevated surface adjacent to the guard. The guard shall be constructed so as to prevent the passage of a 21-inch-diameter (533 mm) sphere and shall comply with the loading requirements for guards specified in the *International Building Code*.



CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: The IMC has always required guards on the service sides of mechanical equipment in elevated locations. Section 304.10 now requires that guards be installed adjacent to roof hatch openings that are closer than 10 feet to an open side that is more than 30 inches above a floor, roof or grade level. The roof hatches are used by service personnel, inspectors, emergency responders and others. The roof hatches are frequently used during inclement weather, emergency situations and darkness. For all of these reasons, the guards are necessary to provide the same minimum measure of safety for roof hatch openings that is provided at the service side of the mechanical equipment. It should be noted that this addition to Section 304.10 is intended to include roof hatch openings only. Other types of roof access openings such as doors do not require guards.