

## 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](http://www.iccsafe.org/e/category.html).

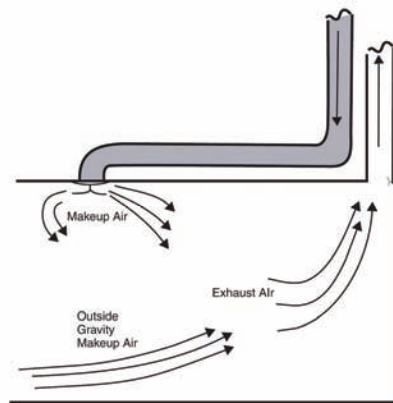
### International Mechanical Code

**SUBJECT:** Pressure Equalization

**CHANGE TYPE:** Modification

#### 501.3 Pressure Equalization.

Mechanical exhaust systems shall be sized to remove the quantity of air required by this chapter to be exhausted. The system shall operate when air is required to be exhausted. Where mechanical exhaust is required in a room or space in other than occupancies in R-3, such space shall be maintained with a neutral or negative pressure. If a greater quantity of air is supplied by a mechanical ventilating supply system than is removed by a mechanical exhaust system for a room, adequate means shall be provided for the natural or mechanical exhaust of the excess air supplied. If only a mechanical exhaust system is installed for a room or if a greater quantity of air is removed by a mechanical exhaust system than is supplied by a mechanical ventilating supply system for a room, adequate means shall be provided for the natural supply of the deficiency in the air supplied makeup air consisting of supply air, transfer air or outdoor air shall be provided to satisfy the deficiency. The calculated building infiltration rate shall not be utilized to satisfy the requirements of this section.



**CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE:** The previous editions of the IMC required makeup air to be provided by a natural supply to areas that required exhaust-only systems. This was not a clear requirement for make-up air and led users of the code to believe that make-up air could be supplied only by infiltration or by gravity through permanent openings such as windows or doors. The code is now more precise about make-up air requirements and allows for make-up air to consist of supply air, transfer air or outdoor air.

