

CHANGE TYPE. Modification

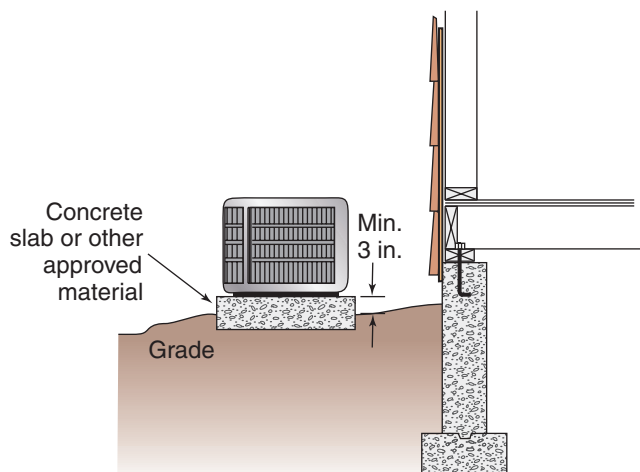
CHANGE SUMMARY. A minimum clearance height for ground-supported mechanical equipment and appliances has been established.

2009 CODE: 304.910 Clearances from Grade. Equipment and appliances installed at grade level shall be supported on a level concrete slab or other approved material extending not less than 3 inches (76 mm) above adjoining grade or shall be suspended a minimum of not less than 6 inches (152 mm) above adjoining grade. Such support shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE. Section 304.10 sets requirements for the installation of mechanical appliances, other than gas-fired equipment. The section prescribes the minimum clearance above the ground for these appliances. The code previously did not establish a minimum height above the adjoining grade when the appliances were supported on a slab or approved pad. The support slab now must extend above ground not less than 3 inches. This distance is increased to 6 inches for appliances suspended from the floor above the crawl space.

The code adds the stipulation to this section that support must also satisfy the manufacturer's installation requirements. The intent of this change is that Section 304.10 now establishes a minimum height to mechanical equipment and appliances in both crawl space and outdoor locations to protect the units from moisture and corrosion.

A coordinating change to the *International Fuel Gas Code*® (IFGC) was not accepted. The IFGC provisions regulate the installation of gas-fired appliances, including support and ground clearance requirements. For gas appliances installed outdoors or in underfloor spaces, IFGC Section 305.7 requires only that concrete pads or other approved material extend above the ground and be level. For suspended equipment and appliances, this section requires a 6-inch ground clearance and matches the provisions in IMC Section 304.10.



Mechanical Appliance Installed at Least 3 inches Above Adjoining Ground

304.10

Clearance from Grade for Appliances

506.3.8

Grease Duct Cleanouts and Other Openings



CHANGE TYPE. Deletion

CHANGE SUMMARY. Access doors on grease ducts may now be designed so that the use of a tool is permitted to open them. Previously the code did not allow the use of a tool to gain access.

2009 CODE: 506.3.8 Grease Duct Cleanouts and Other Openings. Grease duct systems shall not have openings therein other than those required for proper operation and maintenance of the system. Any portion of such system having sections not provided with access from the duct entry or discharge shall be provided with cleanout openings. Cleanout openings shall be equipped with tight-fitting doors constructed of steel having a thickness not less than that required for the duct. Doors shall be equipped with a substantial method of latching, sufficient to hold the door tightly closed. ~~Doors shall be designed so that they are operable without the use of a tool.~~ Door assemblies, including any frames and gasketing, shall be approved for the purpose, and shall not have fasteners that penetrate the duct. Listed and labeled access door assemblies shall be installed in accordance with the terms of the listing.

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE. The change to Section 506.3.8 will allow the use of a tool to open cleanout access doors in a grease duct system. The reasoning is that most of the time the personnel that will be removing the access door are professionals and the use of a tool would not be a problem.

The use of the access openings is to allow for cleaning and inspection by a trained professional. So although access is required, it is on a limited basis and does not need to be quick access. One of the supporting reasons for this change pointed out that the previous provisions typically resulted in the use of wing nuts. If the wing nuts were not adequately tightened it could lead to several problems with the performance and safety of the duct system.