
501.3

Pressure Equalization

CHANGE TYPE. Addition

CHANGE SUMMARY. The addition to this section will allow R-2 occupancies the same exemptions as R-3 in regard to needing to maintain a neutral or negative pressure when an exhaust system is provided.

2009 CODE: 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 and dwelling units in R-2, 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 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 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 addition to this section of the 2009 IMC will allow a mechanically exhausted area in an R-2 occupancy to operate at other than a neutral or negative pressure. This addition will also exempt R-2 occupancies from makeup air requirements. This usually becomes an issue in bathrooms that are mechanically exhausted.

