

**CHANGE TYPE:** Addition

**CHANGE SUMMARY:** There is a new requirement for labeling of controls for whole-house (dwelling) ventilation systems.

**2018 CODE:** **403.3.2.4 System controls.** Where provided within a dwelling unit, controls for outdoor air ventilation systems shall include text or a symbol indicating the system's function.

**CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE:** Section 401.2 will require dwelling units to be mechanically ventilated where their infiltration rate is tested and known to be less than 5 ACH50. Section 403.3.2 addresses dwelling units in low-rise construction and prescribes the design and operation of the dwelling ventilation system. The newly added text requires the control(s) for such ventilation system to be labeled as such. This is important because the occupants of the dwelling are typically not aware of the ventilation system or how it operates. Often, the system relies on local exhaust fans in the bathroom and kitchen to run continuously to provide the required ventilation. Regardless of the type of system, supply air, exhaust air, or combination of such, the control may be a simple wall switch. This wall switch might not be distinguishable from any other wall switch in the dwelling and the ventilation system will be inadvertently shut off, thereby allowing indoor pollutant levels to increase. Such switches should obviously be labeled “Ventilation System” or facsimile thereof to allow informed use of the control switch.



Labeling of controls for whole-house ventilation system

## 403.3.2.4

### Outdoor Air Ventilation for Dwelling Units



This excerpt is taken from *Significant Changes to the International Plumbing Code®, International Mechanical Code®, International Fuel Gas Code®, 2018 Edition.*

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