

2012-2021 IMC Code Comparison

Reference from 2021 Publication	Change from Current	
Three Year Update Cycle	Changes are indicated every edition.	Update costs are reduced when updated with the code cycles; when multiple cycles pass, the updates are not marked in the most current book for the editions that are missed. The committee must review all editions to determine all changes that were missed to determine acceptability. Sometimes those sections will be changed again in later editions. Additionally, the code promulgator provides training on the updates at the regular update intervals.
304.1	Guards used as fall protection on roofs.	Allows a permanent fall arrest anchorage connector device to be used to satisfy the need for guard rails on low slope roofs, reduces costs and increases safety.
Chapter 4 Ventilation	Numerous changes for ventilation methods and requirements.	Clarifies numerous ambiguous ventilation requirements, applies appropriate new standards for ventilation in multiple occupancies, very applicable in looking back at the pandemic.
Chapter 2	Defines classifications of refrigerants	Adds definitions of refrigerant flammability to include "2L" lower flammability refrigerants.
501.3	Ductless domestic range hoods	Clarifies and gives relief to domestic ductless range hoods to not be required to vent to the outdoors when in compliance with the manufacturer's instructions, streamlines process and reduces installation costs primarily in residential applications.
504	Clothes Dryer Exhausts	Requires clothes dryer exhausts to be sealed to prevent leakage and maintain pressure throughout the duct to assure proper air flow out of the building. Also requires concealed dryer exhaust ducts to be installed without deformation of the duct due to wall cavity constraints. Maintains proper system operation and eliminates damage.
505.1	Domestic Range Hoods	Allows domestic range hoods over domestic ranges, in certain other occupancies, when the range is used for domestic purposes. Eliminates the need for Type I hoods (commercial duty) in these other occupancies, significant savings in these applications.
505.3	Common Domestic Kitchen Exhaust Systems in Multi-story Applications	Allows a common exhaust system in multi-story construction where it can be difficult to vent systems on each floor. Similar to dryer systems. More aesthetically pleasing and can reduce costs.
506.5.2	Pollution Control Units	Allows installation of pollution control units in kitchen exhaust systems. These units will reduce noxious odors from the exhaust discharge making installation more acceptable in high density areas. Increases site locations for restaurant operations.

506, 507	Grease Ducts and Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Systems	Clarifies grease duct details to eliminate confusing requirements, applications of Type I and Type II hoods and related controls. Helps to eliminate mis-application of equipment and associated change orders.
507.1	Smoker Units Exhaust	Allows smoker units with factory exhaust to use that exhaust system and not require an additional Type I hood provided installation complies with the manufacturer's instructions. Saves the cost of additional hoods. Returns the allowance of 30 gauge sheet metal as an acceptable material for single dwelling units, removed from code in 2009 and 2012 but consensus of the code was that action lacked justification. Allows for reduced pricing of ductwork in some applications.
Table 603.4	Minimum Sheet Metal Thickness for Ducts	
603.9	Improved duct sealing required	Requires duct sealant tape on lower pressure ductwork to reduce leakage, improve performance, and reduce operating costs. Allows an exception for low pressure snap lock and button lock ducts located inside the conditioned space. Increased installation cost but more than offset by operational savings. Allows and regulates the installation of decorative alcohol fuel burning appliances, eliminates confusion for these products.
929	Decorative Alcohol Fuel Burning Appliances	
930	High-Volume Large-Diameter Fans	Defines and allows High-Volume Large-Diameter Fans commonly found in large warehouse and distribution centers. Jurisdictions were uncertain of the acceptance of these products, the code now sets forth the mechanism for approval. Benefits the distribution and logistics industries, also found in some large entertainment venues (stadiums & arenas).
1102.3	Refrigerant Access Port Protection	Requires secure closure (locking caps) for refrigerant service ports to stop tampering, theft, and limit ability of abusive inhalation of refrigerants.
Table 1103.1	Refrigerants	Expanded table to include new A2L type refrigerants. Significant rewrite of these sections to bring refrigerant regulations up to date with new technologies and prepare for lower GWP refrigerants.
Sections 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110	Refrigerant systems and methods	Allows the use of press-connect fittings that are specially designed for refrigerant use. Reduces installation labor time, speeds up installation, and reduces cost.
Section 1108.3.2.2	Press-Connect Fittings	
Chapter 14	Solar Thermal Systems	Chapter has been edited to clarify these solar energy systems are thermal based and are not intended to regulate the emerging field of solar photovoltaic electrical generation systems.