

BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION

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BUILDING STANDARDS INFORMATION BULLETIN 17-04

DATE: December 1, 2017

TO: LOCAL BUILDING OFFICIALS
STATE AGENCIES
INTERESTED PARTIES

SUBJECT: International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials
(IAPMO) Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA UMC-005-15) regarding
Chapter 6 Duct Systems

This information bulletin is provided for informational purposes only to advise of the Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) UMC-005-15 issued by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) Standards Council. The TIA serves to update the 2015 Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC), Chapter 6 – Duct Systems, relevant to Factory-Made Air Ducts and Connectors by amending model code language in Section 603.4.1. This amendment to Section 603.4.1 permits a factory-made flexible air duct to be used as an elbow under specific conditions.

Pursuant to IAPMO Regulations Governing Committee Projects, the TIA was processed by the IAPMO Standards Council Technical Committee and issued by the Standards Council on August 30, 2017. Attached is the IAPMO August 31, 2017 letter providing the amended language and “For Immediate Release” statement regarding TIA UMC-005-15. The TIA may also be viewed using the link provided by IAPMO as follows:
<http://www.iapmo.org/Tentative%20Interim%20Amendments/2015%20UMC%20TIA%20Decisions/2017%20UMC%20TIA-005-15.pdf>

This bulletin is provided for informational purposes only and the TIA amendment language is not to be considered a building standard.

The 2015 UMC is the base model code for the 2016 California Mechanical Code (CMC). The CMC and the balance of the 13-part California Building Standards Code became effective on January 1, 2017.

The provisions of the IAPMO TIA UMC-005-15 were developed after California’s adoption of the 2015 UMC and therefore are not approved as part of the 2016 CMC. In order for this TIA to become a building standard and enforceable at the state or local level, appropriate state agencies would need to conduct rulemaking in accordance with California Building Standards Law, the Government Code and applicable regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

Absent this amendment becoming a building standard via rulemaking, a local government may enforce the provisions of this TIA through either its ordinance process or as an alternate materials and methods of construction equivalency (details below):

- **Enacting a Local Ordinance**

Local ordinances that amend Title 24 building standards are subject to requirements of California law and must be enacted and filed for each edition of the California Building Standards Code. Ordinances generally must be reasonably necessary and exercise more restrictive standards than the building standards approved/adopted by the commission. These amendments generally must be filed with and accepted by the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) before being enforceable at the local level.

The [Local Code Ordinances](#) page on the CBSC website has a number helpful resources, including the 2016 edition of the [Guide for Local Amendments of Building Standards](#), [examples of ordinances](#) that were accepted for filing in accordance with state law, and the updated [California Code Adoption for Local Jurisdictions webinar](#).

- **Alternate Material and Methods of Construction Equivalency**

Section 302.2 - Alternate Materials and Methods of Construction Equivalency within the 2016 California Mechanical Code (Cal. Code Regs., Title 24, Part 4.), allows the authority having jurisdiction enforcement flexibility in allowing alternate methods, use of products, construction or materials.

Questions regarding the TIA and its process should be directed to IAPMO at (909) 472-4100 or through its website www.iapmo.org. For questions regarding the ordinance process or other subject matter relative to California's building standards, please contact us at (916) 263-0916 or via email at CBSC@dgs.ca.gov.



Mia Marvelli, Executive Director
Department of General Services, California Building Standards Commission

Attachments



August 31, 2017

David Dias
Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union 104
2610 Crow Canyon Road, Suite 300
San Ramon, CA 94583

Eli Howard
SMACNA
4201 Lafayette Center Drive
Chantilly, VA 20151

Re: IAPMO Standards Council Decision
TIA UMC-005-15
Decision date: August 31, 2017**
Uniform Mechanical Code – Section 603.4.1

Dear Messrs. Dias and Howard:

I am transmitting to you herewith the following decision of the Standards Council. At its teleconference meeting on August 30, 2017, the Standards Council considered your request for the issuance of proposed TIA UMC-005-15 in the 2015 edition of the *Uniform Mechanical Code*. The proposed Tentative Interim Amendment requested a revision to Section 603.4.1 as follows:

603.4.1 Length Limitation. Factory-made flexible air ducts and connectors shall be not more than 5 feet (1524 mm) in length and shall not be used in lieu of rigid elbows or fittings. Flexible air ducts shall be permitted to be used as an elbow at a terminal device.

Exception: Residential occupancies.

Prior to the August 30 teleconference, the proposed TIA was balloted through the Mechanical Technical Committee in accordance with the Regulations Governing Committee Projects to determine if there existed the necessary three-fourths majority support on technical merit and emergency nature to establish the recommendation for issuance. The ballot passed on both accounts.

In determining whether or not to issue a TIA, the Council looks to the TC letter ballot for a recommendation of support through an evaluation of the TIA on its technical merit and emergency nature and, in this case, that support exists on both accounts by an overwhelming margin. Upon a full review and consideration of all of the information available to it, including testimony made to the Council, the Council agrees with the substantiation submitted by the proponents and thus voted to accept the recommendation of the Technical Committee and issue proposed TIA UMC-005-15 as noted above.

The Regulations at Section 5-8 states, “TIA’s issued after the proposal closing date shall also apply, *where the text of the existing document remains unchanged*, to the next edition of the Document.” [emphasis added] If through the conclusion of the Association Technical Meeting Convention and subsequent TC balloting and all appeals, Section 603.4.1 of the 2018 UMC maintains the text of the 2015 edition of the UMC then, in accordance with the Regulations TIA UMC-005-15 shall also apply to the 2018 Uniform Mechanical Code.

Sincerely,



Gabriella Davis
Secretary, Standards Council

CC: Chris Van Rite
Monte Bogatz, Executive VP & General Counsel
Lynne Simnick, Sr VP Special Projects
IAPMO Standards Council
Members of the Mechanical TC

****NOTE:** Participants in IAPMO’s codes and standards making process are advised that limited review of this decision may be sought from the IAPMO Board of Directors. For the rules describing the available review and the method for petitioning the Board of Directors for review, please consult Section 1-7 of the *IAPMO Regulations Governing Committee Projects* and the *IAPMO Regulations Governing Petitions to the Board of Directors from Decisions of the Standards Council*. **Notice of the intent to file such a petition must be submitted to the Petitions Clerk of the Board of Directors within 15 calendar days of the Date of Decision noted in the subject line of this letter.** As this document is an American National Standard (ANS), any persons who have directly and materially affected interests by this decision have the right to appeal to ANSI in accordance with ANSI procedures.

IAPMO Regulations Governing Committee Projects
Section 1-7

1-7 Petitions to the Board of Directors.

1-7.1 General. The Standards Council has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the codes and standards development process and the issuance of Documents. However, where extraordinary circumstances requiring the intervention of the Board of Directors exist, the Board of Directors may take any action necessary to fulfill its obligations to preserve the integrity of the standards development process. Anyone seeking such intervention of the Board of Directors may petition the Board of Directors concerning Standards Council action on any matters. Such petitions shall be filed and processed in accordance with the Regulations Governing Petitions to the Board of Directors from Decisions of the Standards Council.

1-7.2 Notice of Intent to File the Petition. Anyone wishing to petition the Board of Directors concerning an Standards Council action related to the issuance of a document, shall file a Notice of Intent to File a Petition within 15 days following the Standards Council action. A Standards Council action related to the issuance of a document includes any action of the Council that issues or returns a Document or that affects the text of a Document. Petitions concerning other Standards Council actions shall be filed within a reasonable period of time.

1-7.3 Effect of Filing. The filing of a Petition will not serve to stay the effective date of a Document or a Tentative Interim Amendment unless the Executive Director of the Association or the Board of Directors acts, pursuant to 4-7.2 or 5-6, to delay the effective date. Any Petition pending at the time a Document or Tentative Interim Amendment becomes effective will be treated as a Petition to withdraw the Document or Tentative Interim Amendment.

1-8 Use of Visual Aids and Demonstrations Before the Standards Council or Board of Directors. The policy for the use of visual aids and physical demonstrations to the Standards Council and Board of Directors shall be the same as that required for TCCs, TCs, and Task Groups, in accordance with 3-3.3.3(e) and 3-3.3.3(f).

**IAPMO Regulations Governing Petitions to the Board of Directors
from Decisions of the Standards Council**

ADOPTED BY THE IAPMO BOARD OF DIRECTORS SEPTEMBER 4, 2000. Amended in January 2007.

Section 1 Scope of and Authority for these Regulations.

(a) These regulations have been issued by the Board of Directors pursuant to its authority under Article 5, 6 and 8 of the IAPMO Bylaws.

(b) These regulations set forth the procedures to be used for the filing and processing of all petitions to the Board of Directors filed pursuant to 1-7 of the Regulations Governing Committee Projects.

(c) The Board of Directors can amend these regulations from time to time and waive or supplement, in whole or in part, at any time or times at its discretion.

(d) For the purposes of these regulations, the Standards Council Secretary, or such other person as the Chair of the Board of Directors may appoint, shall act as a petitions clerk.

Section 2 Subcommittees of the Board of Directors. Unless the Board of Directors otherwise orders, the authority to consider and make recommendations on the disposition of a petition by the Board of Directors shall be delegated to a subcommittee of the Board of Directors, which shall be appointed, in accordance with 2.1 of these regulations. Subcommittees shall be appointed by the Chair of the Board of Directors.

2-1 Composition of Subcommittees. Subcommittees shall consist of three or more members of the Board of Directors. The criteria for selection and appointment of subcommittee members shall be as follows:

(a) A subcommittee member shall be a person who can decide the petition on the merits in an impartial manner.

(b) A subcommittee member shall not have any conflict of interest. (A conflict of interest is defined as any situation in which a decision on a petition could substantially and materially affect the member's financial or business interest.)

(c) Each subcommittee member shall, to the extent practicable, represent diverse interests within the association.

In making a decision of whether or not to serve on a subcommittee, the member may consult with the IAPMO general counsel.

Section 3 The Scope of Review. The petitioner shall generally confine the argument in the petition to matters that were presented below and shall not raise any new matters that could have but were not presented within the standards development process. A petition to the Board of Directors shall not be regarded as simply another opportunity to reargue a position that was rejected by the Standards Council. In considering a petition, the subcommittee shall give due deference to the judgment of the Standards Council and shall not intervene unless it can be demonstrated that extraordinary circumstances exist requiring the Board of Director's intervention to protect the integrity of the standards development process.

Section 4 The Record. In its consideration of the petition, the subcommittee shall have before it the entire record that was before the Standards Council, as well as all proceedings and decisions of the Standards Council on the issue. In addition, the subcommittee may consult any other records of the association that it deems pertinent to the issue, and the subcommittee may seek technical assistance from staff, the technical committee, or any other source or persons that it deems appropriate.

Section 5 Notice of Intent to File the Petition. Anyone wishing to petition the Board of Directors concerning a Standards Council action related to the issuance of a document, shall file a Notice of Intent to File a Petition within 15 days following the Standards Council action. A Standards Council action related to the issuance of a document includes any action of the Council that issues or returns a document or that affects the text of a document. Petitions concerning other Standards Council actions shall be filed within a reasonable period of time.

Section 6 Filing and Contents of the Petition.

(a) Within 15 days following the receipt of the notice of intent to file, or within such other time as the petitions clerk may allow, the petitioner shall file the petition together with 20 copies. The petition shall be no more than 10 pages in length and shall contain, in separately denominated sections, the following:

(1) Name, affiliation, and address of the petitioner;

(2) Statement identifying the particular Standards Council action to which the petition relates;

(3) Argument setting forth the grounds for the petition and, in particular, addressing why there exist extraordinary circumstances requiring the intervention of the Board of Directors (see the preceding Section 3 and 1-7 of the Regulations Governing Committee Projects); and

(4) Statement of the precise relief requested.

(b) Any part of the record related to the standards development process that is referenced or discussed in the petition should be clearly cited in the petition using available markings such as the title, author, date, and page of the record. Since the full record will be available to the subcommittee during its review, attachments and appendices shall not accompany the petition, unless express permission has been obtained from the petitions clerk.

Section 7 Consideration of the Petition.

7-1 Initial Review. The petitions clerk may, at his or her discretion, arrange for initial review of the petition by meeting, correspondence, or telephone conference. If upon such initial review of the petition and any relevant portions of the record, the subcommittee determines that the petition has no merit, it may dismiss the petition.

7-2 Full Review. If initial review is not conducted, or, if upon such review, the subcommittee determines that further review is warranted, it shall afford the opportunity for responses to be filed by interested parties. Responses, together with 20 copies, shall be filed within 15 days or within such other time as the petitions clerk may allow.

(a) Responses shall be no more than 10 pages in length and shall contain, in separately denominated sections, the following:

(1) Name, affiliation, and address of the respondent;

(2) Statement identifying the petition to which the response relates and stating whether the respondent supports or opposes the petition; and

(3) Argument setting forth the grounds for opposing or supporting the petition and, in particular, addressing why there does or does not exist extraordinary circumstances requiring the intervention of the Board of Directors (see the preceding Section 3 and 1-7 of the Regulations Governing Committee Projects).

(b) Any part of the record related to the standards development process that is referenced or discussed in a response should be clearly cited in the response using available markings such as the title, author, date, and page of the record. Since the full record will be available to the subcommittee during its review, attachments and appendices shall not accompany the response, unless express permission has been obtained from the petitions clerk.

(c) So as to avoid unnecessary repetition and duplication of effort, parties are encouraged to file joint responses where possible and appropriate.

(d) Unless a hearing has been requested and granted by the subcommittee (see Section 8), the subcommittee shall, either by meeting or telephone conference, review and render a decision on the petition based on the written submissions of the parties and the record before it.

Section 8 Requests for Hearings. If the petitioner requests a hearing on the petition and that hearing is granted, the petitioner shall be assessed a filing fee of \$2,500 to be posted following the granting of the request. This fee may be reduced or waived by the Executive Director upon application of the petitioner if good cause for reducing or waiving the fee is presented. If a hearing is granted, the Procedures for Hearings shall be followed.

Section 9 Waiver of Regulations. Any of the deadlines or requirements set forth in these regulations may be waived by the subcommittee upon application of the petitioner or any other party for good cause shown, or in the discretion of the subcommittee.

Section 10 Subcommittee Report to the Board of Directors. The subcommittee shall file with the Board of Directors a written report concerning each petition that it has determined.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IAPMO Standards Council Issues TIA UMC-005-15

Ontario, Calif. (Sept. 1, 2017) — The IAPMO Standards Council on Aug. 31 issued a Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) amending the 2015 edition of the *Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC®)*.

TIA UMC-005-15 revises UMC Section 603.4.1 Length Limitation to add the sentence “Flexible air ducts shall be permitted to be used as an elbow at a terminal device.”

The TIA was balloted through the Mechanical Technical Committee in accordance with the Regulations Governing Committee Projects to determine if there existed the necessary three-fourths majority support on technical merit and emergency nature to establish the recommendation for issuance. In the case of TIA UMC-005-15, the letter ballot passed on both accounts.

In determining whether or not to issue a TIA, the Standards Council looks to the Technical Committee letter ballot for a recommendation of support. Upon a full review and consideration of all the information available to it, the Council agreed with the substantiation submitted by the proponent and thus voted to accept the recommendation of the Technical Committee and issue TIA UMC-005-15.

Furthermore, the regulations state that TIAs issued after the proposal closing date shall also apply, where the text of the existing document remains unchanged, to the next edition of the document. If through the conclusion of the Association Technical Meeting Convention and subsequent TC balloting and all appeals, Section 603.4.1 of the 2018 UMC maintains the text of the 2015 edition then, in accordance with the regulations, TIA UMC-005-15 shall also apply to the 2018 UMC.

To examine TIA UMC-005-15 in its entirety, please direct your Web browser to <http://www.iapmo.org/Tentative%20Interim%20Amendments/2015%20UMC%20TIA%20Decisions/2017%20UMC%20TIA-005-15.pdf>.

TIAs are proposals based on the determination of an emergency nature requiring prompt action to amend code that contains an error or omission that was overlooked during the regular code development process, contains a conflict within the document or with another IAPMO document, or to correct a hazard, promote an advancement in safeguarding the public or provide an opportunity to correct an adverse impact on a product or method of installation.

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Sponsor of the Uniform Codes, IAPMO® – The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials – works in concert with government and industry for safe, sanitary plumbing and mechanical systems. Learn more about IAPMO at www.iapmo.org.