**Mechanical Technical Advisory Committee – Errata**

**8th Edition (2023) Florida Building Code, Mechanical**

**CHAPTER 6 DUCT SYSTEMS**

M-FBC-M - Ch. 6 – Glitch #1 – **(Received after deadline 12/13/2023)**

**From:** Skip Gregory <gregoryskip@gmail.com>   
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 11:39 PM  
**To:** Madani, Mo <Mo.Madani@myfloridalicense.com>  
**Subject:** Conflict between FBC and FMC

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 Mo, I bought my new copy of the FBC Series today and was going through some of the know revisions when I came upon what appears to be a serious oversight. I had nothing to do with any of this, but thought you might like to know about it since you will be getting the calls when it is applied next year. And because it does concern when a fire damper is required through a 1 hour fire barrier, there will be a lot of questions around this particular code section. Let me know if I can be of any assistance to you in trying  to get this coordinated as soon as possible.

I have attached the sections from the FBC, FMC and IMC showing  the disconnect  between the FBC and FMC codes.

As you can see, the FBC new language was not brought into the FMC even though it was revised in the IMC. Someone on the Mechanical TAC must have missed it.

This is going to create a problem with which code shall be followed, the FBC or the FMC? It is a big deal because it affects a lot of fire dampers.

**Possible Glitch Code Revisions or DAC Statement**

**Dec. 13. 2023**

The following sections were copied from the 8th edition of the FBC and FMC and the 2021 edition of the IMC.

As can be seen, the FMC did not pick up the revisions that were made by the IMC for section 607. However the revisions made in the IBC were included in the revisions to the FBC. Because of this, there is a disconnect between the FBC and the FMC 8th edition. See below:

**The 8th edition of the Florida Building Code:**

**717.5.2 Fire barriers.**

Ducts and air transfer openings of *fire barriers* shall be protected with listed fire dampers installed in accordance with their listing. Ducts and air transfer openings shall not penetrate enclosures for *interior exit stairways* and *ramps* and *exit passageways*, except as permitted by [Sections 1023.5](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/FLBC2023P1_Ch10_Sec1023.5/3275) and [1024.6](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/FLBC2023P1_Ch10_Sec1024.6/3275), respectively.

**Exception:***Fire dampers* are not required at penetrations of *fire barriers* where any of the following apply:

1.Penetrations are tested in accordance with ASTM E119 or [UL 263](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/FLBC2023P1_Ch35_PromUL_RefStd263_2011/3275) as part of the fire-resistance-rated assembly.

2.Ducts are used as part of an *approved* smoke control system in accordance with [Section 909](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/FLBC2023P1_Ch09_Sec909/3275) and where the use of a *fire damper* would interfere with the operation of a smoke control system.

3.Such walls are penetrated by fully ducted HVAC systems, have a required *fire-resistance rating* of 1 hour or less, are in areas of other than Group H and are in buildings equipped throughout with an *automatic sprinkler system* in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/FLBC2023P1_Ch09_Sec903.3.1.1/3275) or [903.3.1.2](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/FLBC2023P1_Ch09_Sec903.3.1.2/3275). For the purposes of this exception, a fully ducted HVAC system shall be a duct system for conveying supply, return or exhaust air as part of the structure’s HVAC system. Such a duct system shall be constructed of sheet steel not less than No. 26 gage thickness and shall be continuous from the air handling appliance or equipment to the air outlet and inlet terminals. Flexible air connectors shall be permitted in the following locations:

3.1.Nonmetal flex connections shall be permitted at the duct connection to the air handling unit or equipment located within the mechanical room in accordance with [Section 603.9](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/FLMC2023P1_Ch06_Sec603.9/3275) of the *Florida Building Code, Mechanical*.

3.2.Nonmetal flex connections shall be permitted from an overhead metal duct to a ceiling diffuser within the same room in accordance with [Section 603.6.2](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/FLMC2023P1_Ch06_Sec603.6.2/3275) of the *Florida Building Code, Mechanical*.

**8th edition of the Florida Mechanical Code:**

**(NO REVISIONS MADE TO SUBPARAGRAPH #3 EXCEPTIONS)**

**[BF] 607.5.2 Fire barriers.**

Ducts and air transfer openings that penetrate fire barriers shall be protected with *listed* fire dampers installed in accordance with their listing. Ducts and air transfer openings shall not penetrate enclosures for interior exit stairways and ramps and exit passageways except as permitted by [Sections 1023.5](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/FLBC2020P1_Ch10_Sec1023.5/3256) and [1024.6](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/FLBC2020P1_Ch10_Sec1024.6/3256), respectively, of the *Florida Building Code, Building*.

**Exception:**Fire dampers are not required at penetrations of fire barriers where any of the following apply:

1.Penetrations are tested in accordance with ASTM E119 or [UL 263](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/FLMC2023P1_Ch15_PromUL_RefStd263_2011/3256) as part of the fire-resistance-rated assembly.

2.Ducts are used as part of an *approved* smoke control system in accordance with [Section 513](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/FLMC2023P1_Ch05_Sec513/3256) and where the fire damper would interfere with the operation of the smoke control system.

3.Such walls are penetrated by ducted HVAC systems, have a required fire-resistance rating of 1 hour or less, are in areas of other than Group H and are in buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/FLBC2020P1_Ch09_Sec903.3.1.1/3256) or [903.3.1.2](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/FLBC2020P1_Ch09_Sec903.3.1.2/3256) of the *Florida Building Code, Building*. For the purposes of this exception, a ducted HVAC system shall be a duct system for the structure’s HVAC system. Such a duct system shall be constructed of sheet steel not less than 26 gage [0.0217 inch (0.55 mm)] thickness and shall be continuous from the air-handling *appliance* or *equipment* to the air outlet and inlet terminals.

# I

# MC 2021

# ] 607.5.2 Fire barriers.

# P

Ducts and air transfer openings that penetrate fire barriers shall be protected with *listed* fire dampers installed in accordance with their listing. Ducts and air transfer openings shall not penetrate enclosures for interior exit stairways and ramps and exit passageways except as permitted by [Sections 1023.5](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/IBC2021P1_Ch10_Sec1023.5/2220) and [1024.6](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/IBC2021P1_Ch10_Sec1024.6/2220), respectively, of the *International Building Code*.

**Exception:** Fire dampers are not required at penetrations of fire barriers where any of the following apply:

1.Penetrations are tested in accordance with ASTM E119 or [UL 263](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/IMC2021P3_Ch15_PromUL_RefStd263_2011/2220) as part of the fire-resistance-rated assembly.

2.Ducts are used as part of an *approved* smoke control system in accordance with [Section 513](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/IMC2021P3_Ch05_Sec513/2220) and where the fire damper would interfere with the operation of the smoke control system.

3.Such walls are penetrated by fully ducted HVAC systems, have a required fire-resistance rating of 1 hour or less, are in areas of other than Group H and are in buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with [Section 903.3.1.1](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/IBC2021P1_Ch09_Sec903.3.1.1/2220) or [903.3.1.2](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/IBC2021P1_Ch09_Sec903.3.1.2/2220) of the *International Building Code*. For the purposes of this exception, a fully ducted HVAC system shall be a duct system for the structure’s HVAC system. Such a duct system shall be constructed of sheet steel not less than 26 gage [0.0217 inch (0.55 mm)] thickness and shall be continuous from the air-handling *appliance* or *equipment* to the air outlet and inlet terminals. Flexible air connectors shall be permitted in a fully ducted system, limited to the following installations:

3.1.Nonmetallic flexible connections that connect a duct to an air handling unit or *equipment* located within a mechanical room in accordance with [Section 603.9](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/IMC2021P3_Ch06_Sec603.9/2220).

3.2.Nonmetallic flexible air connectors in accordance with [Section 603.6.2](https://codes.iccsafe.org/lookup/IMC2021P3_Ch06_Sec603.6.2/2220) that connect an overhead metal duct to a ceiling diffuser where the metal duct and ceiling diffuser are located within the same room.

TAC Recommendation: Glitch - AS

Commission Action: