

**This is only to provide rationale for code change proposals submitted. For final language specific to the 2004 code, more details regarding the sections in the code, and correct wording, please see the 2006 Supplement. Please see the proposed code change modifications for text submitted for consideration by the Florida Building Commission.**

2/24/06

**MECHANICAL/FIRE PROPOSED MODS  
FBC TRACKING CHART: PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS  
2006 Annual Interim Code Amendments to the 2004 Florida Building Code**

This chart is organized according to mod/proponent, section number, and a summary of the proposed change for modifications related to the Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC) area of responsibility. Common designations are:

**Admin:** Integration of the administration and enforcement portions of all codes and private swimming pool barriers.

**Elec:** Related to Electrical codes and standards

**Energy:** Related to the energy codes and standards

**Fire:** Related to the Fire and life/safety issues as contained within the building code and standards.

**Mech:** Related to the Mechanical codes and standards.

**PlumbGas:** Related to the Plumbing, Gas and swimming pool codes and standards (except commercial pools and pool barriers).

**SpecOcc:** Codes and related standards associated with facilities for special occupancies that are regulated by state agencies.

**Struc:** Related to the Building code for structural, technical, and material requirements and wind standards.

The proposals are listed sequentially by code section number for the base code designated. The proposed mod numbers are assigned by the BCIS web site as they are received. They are assigned to the TAC which administers that specific subject area. Notations concerning where a proposal has been assigned for action are made in the Comments column. For example, if the first proposed modification to the base code FBC-Mechanical code is for section 603.1.2 (related to duct construction), it would be assigned to the Energy TAC because the issue is with the energy chapter in the building base code. This chart can be used for quick reference and for tracking the status of proposals.

**Status Codes:**

AS = Approved as submitted

AM = Approved as modified

NA = Not approved

W = Withdrawn

I = Insufficient (Incomplete or does not meet criteria)

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Section/Chapter	Rationale	Summary
<b>BUILDING CODE</b>		
<p><b>§403.15</b> Smoke control shall be in accordance with Section 909.</p> <p><u>Exception: I-2 occupancies which comply with Section 407, 419.3.12 and 420.3.16 shall not require smoke control systems in accordance with Section 909.</u></p>	<p><b>[Mod 1585]</b></p> <p>This proposal was originally made to the Fire TAC Committee in June 16-19, 2003 and was accepted. The fact that this requirement remains in the code is an unintended consequence of the change of the Base Code from the SBC to the IBC.</p> <p>The requirements of the high rise section are already required in hospitals. However, hospitals are required to provide safety features that other high rise occupancies do not require (smoke compartments, staff assisted evacuation). Adding the requirements outlined in §403.15 will not increase the level of safety to the building occupants. In fact, mechanical smoke control may cause the spread of infectious diseases where the required pressure differentials required for hospitals is eliminated by the smoke control system operation.</p>	<p>Proposal to exempt high- rise hospitals from smoke control requirements. This proposal was accepted by the Fire TAC in June 2003 but was missed in the change to the IBC base code</p>
<p><b>909.16 Fire-fighter’s smoke control panel.</b> A fire-fighter’s smoke control panel for fire department emergency response purposes only shall be provided and shall include manual control or override of automatic control for mechanical smoke control systems. The panel shall be located in a fire command center complying with Section 911 <u>in high-rise buildings or buildings with smoke protected assembly seating. In other buildings, the fire-fighter’s smoke control panel shall be installed in an approved location adjacent to the fire alarm control panel. The fire-fighter’s smoke control panel,</u> and shall comply with Sections 909.16.1 through 909.16.3.</p>	<p><b>[Mod 1847]</b></p> <p>This would bring the code in line with the upcoming 2006 IBC text (code change F125-03/04).</p> <p>The code contains one direct requirement for a fire command center – in the high-rise section of the code – Section 403.8. the language in section 909.16 could be viewed as an indirect requirement for a fire command center. This was not the intent of the section. Rather the original intent was that where there is a fire command center, the logical place for the smoke control panel is in that room. It was never the intent of the code to require a fire command room to be constructed when the other fire protection elements that would go into that room are not required.</p> <p>There are smaller buildings with smoke control that would not require a fire command center because the building is not high-rise. Some of these are low-rise buildings with an atrium, underground buildings and smoke protected assembly seating. Due to the size of the facility in which smoke protected assembly seating is found, a fire command center is appropriate. In the other facilities the smoke control panel should be located where the fire department can gain access to it. The most logical place is adjacent to the fire alarm panel since in all cases where there is a smoke control system, a fire alarm system is also required.</p>	<p>Additional information on location of smoke control panel in non</p>

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Section/Chapter	Rationale	Summary
<b>RESIDENTIAL CODE</b>		
<p><b>R309.1.1 Duct penetration.</b> Ducts in the garage and ducts penetrating the walls or ceilings separating the dwelling from the garage shall be constructed of a minimum No. 26 gage (0.48 mm) sheet steel, <u>1 inch minimum rigid nonmetallic Class 0 or Class1 duct board</u> or other approved material and shall have no openings into the garage.</p>	<p><b>[Mod 1562]</b>  <b>Rational:</b> This code change is to remove metallic requirements from a non-rated 1-2 family structure while recognizing a level of protection that is consistent with current code levels. The three model codes have been exempt from this type of requirement prior to this edition of the FBC-R, FBC-M Duct Systems, already sets out the requirements for residential ducts. Over the years codes have addressed fire issues, we have raised the ignition source, added smoke detectors, and added emergency escape because the need was justified. The addition of smoke detectors has proven to be one of the most life saving requirements ever. Smoke detectors are not recommended in garages due to false alarms. NFPA statistics show 96.9% of fire origin is other than the garage; death from fires is 98.6% in other than the garage; and injuries by fire are 97.4% other than the garage. Of the 1.6 million fires in the last 4 years only .012% were caused by vehicle fire. This would equate to one garage fire in every 833,000 fires. NFPA Fire statistics show fires in 1-2 family dwellings most often start in the: Kitchen 23.5%, Bedroom 12.7%, Living Room 7.9%, Chimney 7.1% and Laundry Area 4.7%. Source of information: National Fire Protection Association 1998. Fire loss in the U.S. and Fire in the United States 1987-1996, 11th Edition.</p>	<p>Revise to add other duct types.</p>

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