



# PUBLIC CODE CHANGE PROPOSAL FORM FOR PUBLIC PROPOSALS IN THE INTERNATIONAL CODES

## 2007/2008 CODE DEVELOPMENT CYCLE

**CLOSING DATE: All Proposals Must Be Received by August 20, 2007**

The 2007/2008 Code Development Hearings are tentatively scheduled for  
February 18 – March 2, 2008, location TBD.

1) Name: **Tom Neltner** Date: **August 15, 2007**  
 Jurisdiction/Company: **National Center for Healthy Housing**  
 Submitted on Behalf of: **National Center for Healthy Housing and Alliance for Healthy Homes**  
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 City: **Silver Spring** State: **Maryland** Zip Code: **21044**  
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2) Copyright Release: In accordance with Council Policy #28 Code Development, all Code Change Proposals, Floor Modifications and Public Comments are required to include a copyright release. A copy of the copyright release form is included at the end of this form. Please follow the directions on the form. This form as well as an alternative release form can also be downloaded from the ICC website at [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org). If you have previously executed the copyright release, please check the box below:

**2007/2008 Cycle copyright release on file Mailed separately.**

3) Indicate appropriate International Code(s) associated with this Public Proposal – Please use Acronym: **IPMC**  
 If you have also submitted a separate coordination change to another I-Code, please indicate the code: **N/A**  
 (See section below for list of names and acronyms for the International Codes).

4) **Be sure to format your proposal and include all information as indicated on Page 2 of this form.**

5) Proposals should be sent to the following offices via regular mail or email. An e-mail submittal is preferred, including an electronic version, in either Wordperfect or Word. The only formatting that is needed is **BOLDING, STRIKEOUT AND UNDERLINING**. Please do not provide additional formatting such as tabs, columns, etc., as this will be done by ICC. **REMOVE TRACKING CHANGES, AUTOMATIC NUMBERING, OR ANY OTHER ADVANCED FORMATTING TOOLS THAT ARE PROVIDED BY WORD, FROM FILES CONTAINING YOUR CODE CHANGE PROPOSAL THAT YOU SEND TO ICC.**

Please use a separate form for each proposal submitted. Note: All code changes received will receive an acknowledgment.

Please check here if separate graphic file provided.

Graphic materials (Graphs, maps, drawings, charts, photographs, etc.) must be submitted as separate electronic files in .CDR,.IA,.TIF or .JPG format (300 DPI Minimum resolution; 600 DPI or more preferred) even though they may also be embedded in your Word or Wordperfect submittal.

### Code

- IBC - International Building Code
- IEBC - International Existing Building Code
- IFC - International Fire Code
- IFGC - International Fuel Gas Code
- IPC - International Plumbing Code
- IPSDC - International Private Sewage Disposal Code
- IPMC - International Property Maintenance Code
- IWUIC - International Wildland-Urban Interface Code
- IZC - International Zoning Code
- ELECT - International Code Council Electrical Code– Administrative Provisions

### Send to:

International Code Council  
 Chicago District Office  
 Attn: Diane Schoonover  
 4051 West Flossmoor Road  
 Country Club Hills, IL 60478-5795  
 Fax: 708/799-0320  
[codechanges@iccsafe.org](mailto:codechanges@iccsafe.org)

- IECC - International Energy Conservation Code
- ICC PC - ICC Performance Code
- IMC - International Mechanical Code
- IRC - International Residential Code

International Code Council  
 Birmingham District Office  
 Attn: Annette Sundberg  
 900 Montclair Road  
 Birmingham, AL 35213-1206  
 Fax: 205/592-7001  
[codechangesbhm@iccsafe.org](mailto:codechangesbhm@iccsafe.org)

## CODE CHANGE PROPOSAL

**Code Sections/Tables/Figures Proposed for Revision (3.3.2):** 403.5

**Name/Company/Representing (3.3.1):**

Tom Neltner, National Center for Healthy Housing and Alliance for Healthy Homes

**Proposal:** NOTE: PLEASE READ ITEM 5) of the first page of this form for formatting instructions.

Revise as follows:

403.5 Clothes dryer exhaust. Clothes dryer exhaust systems shall be independent of all other systems and shall be exhausted outside the structure in accordance with the label. ~~manufacturer's instructions~~

Exception: Listed and labeled condensing (ductless) clothes dryers.

**Supporting Information (3.3.4 & 3.4):**

The current requirement is difficult to enforce, especially in dwelling units. Often the manufacturer's instructions are not available. They may be lost, in a file cabinet, or in an off-site location. If the owner or the occupant claims that a clothes dryer is installed consistent with the manufacturer's instructions, the inspector may have difficulty securing the proper documentation. If the information is essential, it should be on the label. Therefore, the proposal references the label instead of the manufacturer's instructions.

The proposal also requires that clothes dryer exhaust systems be exhausted outside, excepting condensing dryers, consistent with ASHRAE 622. According to the 2005 National American Housing Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau (see [www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/ahs/ahs.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/ahs/ahs.html)), more than 20 million of dwelling units rely on piped gas to heat a clothes dryer. The combustion by products from these dryers must be exhausted outside to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. While the label should require this design, the code should be clear on this point given the nature of the danger. There are nearly 500 deaths annually in the U.S., according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Where the clothes dryer relies on electricity for heat, it is still important to vent the clothes dryer exhaust outside. Exhausting the clothes dryer inside will:

- Waste energy. If the air conditioning is in use, energy will be wasted removing this moisture and heat from the structure. Where the owner or occupant has an option to exhaust it outside, they may forget to make the change.
- Add humidity to the air. This humidity can condense on surfaces, especially on basements where clothes dryers are often located. It also contributes to potential respiratory problems. In its 2004 report, the National Academy of Sciences concluded that there is sufficient evidence of an association between damp indoor environments and four respiratory problems: upper respiratory tract symptoms, coughing, wheezing, and asthma in sensitive persons. See [www.nap.edu/books/0309091934/html/](http://www.nap.edu/books/0309091934/html/).
- Add unnecessary volatile organic compounds (VOCs) to the air. Many of the detergents used on clothes contain fragrances and other VOCs. These VOCs may not be thoroughly removed in the washing/rinse cycle. They will be removed in the dryer. These VOCs may have health effects. At a minimum, they represent an unnecessary exposure.

**Referenced Standards (3.4 & 3.6):**

ASHRAE 62.2

**Cost Impact (3.3.4.6):**

The proposal will require that clothes dryers be exhausted outside the structure. This is common practice, especially in new construction. In existing construction, the code change would require the installation of an exhaust. In some densely populated areas such as New York City, there are code restrictions on the exhaust of clothes dryers. In these conditions, the jurisdiction may not adopt this provision or the code official may grant a waiver using other provisions of the code.