



INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

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Chief Building Official

DOMESTIC CLOTHES DRYER MOISTURE EXHAUST DUCT LENGTH LIMITATIONS

California Mechanical Code (CMC) Section 504.3.1 requires domestic clothes dryer moisture exhaust ducts to terminate at to the exterior of the building. Unless otherwise approved by the Chief Building Official, Section 504.3.2 limits the maximum length of domestic clothes dryer exhaust ducts to a total developed length of 14 feet, and this maximum length is reduced for 90-degree bends in excess of two. Meeting this limitation becomes a practical difficulty for higher density development in which floor plan layouts do not provide laundry room walls at the exterior of the building. Typical manufacturer's instructions allow for substantially greater lengths. In recognition of these factors, increased duct lengths will be allowed, subject to the following conditions:

1. The moisture exhaust duct shall be increased to 5 inches nominal diameter.
2. The total developed length of the 5-inch diameter duct shall not exceed 44-feet, including two 90-degree elbows, 4-feet shall be deducted for each 90-degree elbow in excess of two.
3. Accessible clean outs shall be provided at intervals not to exceed 20 feet and at the base of each vertical riser.
4. The termination of the duct shall not be restricted by any louvers or screens and the free area of the duct shall not be reduced.
5. The duct system design shall be such that the fasteners will not obstruct the flow through the duct system.
6. The lap joints are to be in the direction of the air flow.
7. The free area of the duct shall not be reduced.
8. The moisture exhaust duct shall not extend into or through ducts or plenums.