Memorandum

To: Maureen Guttman, Chair **Date: 26 March 2018**
Pennsylvania U.C.C. Review and Advisory Council

From: E. Mitchell Swann, Subcommittee Chair
International Mechanical Code Review

Re: Subcommittee Recommendation

Maureen,

As Chair of the 2015 International Mechanical Code (including the Mechanical Section of the International Residential Code) review subcommittee, I respectfully submit the subcommittee's recommendations with regard to the received Public Comments as follows.

Here is what we came to:

RE: Sec 505.3 Exception 1 (Cooking Exhaust) - the comment against the Code section as written cited another section (407.2.6) which the commenter felt adequately handled the needs. However, the cited section (407.6) addresses Cooking Exhaust systems serving 'multiple users' on the same floor like a dorm or nursing home with a common kitchen. The 505 section deals with a common exhaust system serving multiple floors. Not the same things.
REJECT COMMENT.
EMS: Reject
RM: Reject
JEK: Reject
LM: Reject
KM: Reject

RE: Sec M1601.4.1 (Duct seams and joints) - the code as written would disallow the use of snap-lock and button-lock joints and seams on all ductwork, even that within the conditioned space. The proposed change would allow the use of such methods on systems operating under 2.0 inches w.c. where the duct is run inside conditioned space (not crawlspace or attics).
ACCEPT COMMENT.
EMS: Accept
RM: Accept
JEK: Accept
LM: Accept
KM: Accept

RE Sec IRC 1602 (Return and Supply air balance) - the code as written would disallow systems where the amount of RA from a space exceeded the amount of SA. For an overall building, this is reasonable, but such a provision would ostensibly rule out the use of a hallway in a residential property as a pathway

for RA back to a furnace. This seems onerous and somewhat unworkable given the TAB practice in residential construction.
ACCEPT COMMENT (do not accept code language)
EMS: Accept
RM: Accept
JEK: Accept (with Revised Language)
LM: Accept (but not code language)
KM: Accept John's Revised Language

RE: Sec M1507.3 (House Air Leakage) - The code, overall, has insisted on tighter and tighter construction. Eventually the air tightness could so restrict infiltration that you don't have enough air for combustion or fresh air for ventilation. Combustion can be addressed by direct feed, but ventilation still has an 'ASHRAE 62" component to it. Sec R402.4.1.2 sets limits on infiltration (no more than 5 ACH) and requirements for air tightness, however, one residential property with standard ceilings, small footprint and resultant 'small volume' is at a great disadvantage to a large house with cathedral ceilings where the volume is great. You can be much 'sloppier' in that construction because that 'volume' is so much larger. The Comment has merit, but we feel that is needs to be re-written to get closer to solving the above issue.
REVISE COMMENT
EMS: Revise Comment)
RM: Revise Comment)
JEK: Revise Comment
LM: Accept Comment
KM: Reject Comment

RE: Sec M1411.4 (Condensate Pumps) - the code requires that a failed condensate pump located in an "uninhabited space" be configured so as to shut down the unit it is serving under such failure. The commenter is concerned that such a shut off during freezing weather could result in a 'whole house' freeze and that it is better to just allow the system to operate and the condensate to spill over the pan. In review and discussion, the concern is that if such auto shutoff is removed, the pump could remain "failed" for an indefinite length of time which could result in water damage (due to condensate overflow) or Legionella (due to stagnant warm water). If the condensate pump shuts off the unit, the occupants will be 'motivated' to investigate and resolve. If the condensate pump is in an occupied space, it should not freeze. We are open to revisiting the concern.
REJECT COMMENT
EMS: Reject
RM: Reject
JEK: Reject
LM: Accept
KM: Reject

Respectfully submitted,

E. Mitchell Swann, PE (Chair); Committee Members: Craig Glotfelty, John E. Kampmeyer, Richard Madzar, Kevin Maynard, Larry Mellott, Matthew Wojaczyk