

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
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**Exhaust Ducts in Plenum Spaces**

**Code:** 2002 NC Mechanical Code

**Date:** July 18, 2005

**Section:** 601.3

**Question:**

Does the 2002 NC Energy Code allow exhaust ducts under negative pressure to be located within a plenum?

**Answer:**

Yes, Section 601.3 of the 2002 NC Mechanical Code implies that exhaust ducts under negative pressure may be located within a plenum. However, this section of the code explicitly prohibits exhaust ducts under positive pressure, chimneys, and vents to extend into or pass through ducts or plenums. To prevent cross contamination, exhaust ducts under positive pressure and chimneys and vents are not permitted to extend into or pass through ducts or plenums.