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Requirements for Support of Flexible Air Duct

Code: 2002 NC Mechanical Code
Section: 603.9

Date: October 11, 2005

Question:

What are the requirements for supporting flexible factory-made air ducts?

Answer:

Section 603.9 of the 2002 NC Mechanical Code requires that flexible air duct be supported in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions. Flexible duct is required to be listed and labeled to UL 181 requirements and is constructed of Class 0 or Class 1 duct material. The flexible duct manufacturers' provisions for supporting flexible air duct is packaged with the product and is the same as in the Air Diffusion Council's publication "Flexible Duct Performance and Installation Standards." The requirements are to support horizontal flexible duct every 5 feet with no more than ½ inch per foot of length sag between supports. Flexible duct may rest on ceiling joists or truss supports. Vertical runs of flexible duct must be stabilized by support straps at a maximum of 6 feet on center. Strapping used to support flexible duct shall be a minimum of 1 ½ inches wide and shall provide a uniform bearing surface for the duct and not cause internal duct restrictions to air flow when the weight of the supported section rests on the hanger or saddle material.

The publication noted above may be purchased from the Air Diffusion Council and it contains a full set of installation guidelines. The phone number is (312) 201-0101. The office of the Air Diffusion Council is located in Chicago, IL.

Keywords:

Flexible air duct support