

# Recommended Amendments to the 2015 International Mechanical Code

City of Amarillo Texas

The following sections, paragraphs, and sentences of the *2015 International Mechanical Code* are hereby amended as follows: Standard type is text from the IPC. Underlined type is text inserted. Lined through type is deleted text from IPC. A double asterisk (\*\*) at the beginning of a section identifies an amendment carried over from the 2012 edition of the code and a triple asterisk (\*\*\*) identifies a new or revised amendment with the 2015 code.

## **\*\*Section 101.1.; change to read as follows: Insert: City of Amarillo**

**Section 101.1 Title.** These regulations shall be known as the *International Mechanical Code* of [NAME-OF JURISDICTION] City of Amarillo hereinafter referred to as "this code."

(Reason: Standard insertion point: [insert] to assist with local adoption)

## **\*\*106.5.1; change to read as follows:**

**106.5.1 Work commencing before permit issuance.** Any person who commences any work on a mechanical system before obtaining the necessary permits shall be subject to 100 percent of the usual permit fee in addition to the required permit fees. fees as provided in Chapter 4-1 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances.

(Reason: Amarillo Municipal Code, Chapter 4-1-4, Late fee; offense provides specific language relating to this section)

## **\*\*106.5.2; change to read as follows:**

**Section 106.5.2 Fee schedule.** ~~The fees for all mechanical work shall be as indicated in the following schedule:~~ [JURISDICTION TO INSERT APPROPRIATE SCHEDULE] Fees as provided in Chapter 4-1 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances.

(Reason: Standard insertion point: [insert] to assist with local adoption)

## **\*\*106.5.3; change to read as follows:**

**106.5.3 Fee refunds.** The code official shall authorize the refunding of fees as follows:

1. The full amount of any fee paid hereunder that was erroneously paid or collected.
2. Not more than [SPECIFY PERCENTAGE] percent of the permit fee paid when no work has been done under a permit issued in accordance with this code.
3. Not more than [SPECIFY PERCENTAGE] percent of the plan review fee paid when an application for a permit for which a plan review fee has been paid is withdrawn or canceled before any plan review effort has been expended.

~~The code official shall not authorize the refunding of any fee paid except upon written application filed by the original permittee not later than 180 days after the date of fee payment.~~

(Reason: Standard insertion point: [insert] to assist with local adoption)

## **\*\*108.4; Delete entirely (covered by general provisions in Code of Ordinances):**

**Section 108.4 Violations penalties.** ~~Any person who shall violate a provision of this code or shall fail to comply with any of the requirements thereof or who shall erect, install, alter or repair mechanical work in violation of the approved construction documents or directive of the code official, or of a permit or certificate issued under the provisions of this code, shall be guilty of a [SPECIFY OFFENSE], punishable by a fine of not more than [AMOUNT] dollars or by imprisonment not exceeding [NUMBER OF DAYS], or both such fine and imprisonment. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense.~~

(Reason: Covered by general provisions in Amarillo Code of Ordinances)

**\*\*108.5; Change to read as follows**

**108.5 Stop work orders.** Upon notice from the code official that mechanical work that is being done contrary to the provisions of this code or in a dangerous or unsafe manner shall immediately cease. Such notice shall be in writing and shall be given to the owner of the property, or to the owner's agent, or to the person doing the work. The notice shall state the conditions under which work is authorized to resume. Where an emergency exists, the code official shall not be required to give a written notice prior to stopping the work. Any person who shall continue any work in or about the structure after having been served with a stop work order, except such work as that person is directed to perform to remove a violation or unsafe condition, shall be liable ~~to a fine of not less than [AMOUNT] dollars or more than [AMOUNT] dollars.~~ for a fine as specified in the Municipal Code of Ordinances.

(Reason: For greater consistency with the general provisions in Amarillo Code of Ordinances)

**\*\*\*307.3; Change to read as follows**

**307.3 Condensate Pumps.** Condensate pumps located in uninhabitable space, such as attics and crawl spaces, shall be connected to the appliance or equipment served such that when the pump fails, the appliance or equipment will be prevented from operating. Pumps shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall not prevent the operation of fuel fired appliances.

(Reason: Heating units in the Panhandle are typically installed in unconditioned areas, shutting the heating equipment down may result in frozen plumbing if building is unoccupied for an extended period of time resulting in damage to interior finishes.)

**\*\*\* 307.4; Add Section to read as follows:**

**307.4 Auxiliary drain pan.** Category IV condensing appliances shall have and auxiliary drain pan where damage to any building component will occur as a result of stoppage in the condensate drainage system or failure of a condensate pump. These pans shall be installed in accordance with the applicable provisions of Section 307.2.3 item (1.) and be provided under condensate pumps.

**Exception:** ~~Fuel-fired appliances that automatically shut down operation in the event of a stoppage in the condensate drainage system.~~

(Reason: Modification of Section 307.3 limits the shutdown of heating units, this modification provides a means for building owners to observe drain pan drainage in the event of condensate pump failure and provide protection in the event of condensate pump failure.)

**\*\* Section 918; add the following:**

**918.1.2 Total electric heating:** Primary central heating and cooling forced air systems utilizing only electric heat shall utilize heat pumps.

(Reason: Total electric heating without the use of heat pumps does not provide energy efficiency and results in excessive energy bill; it is not in the best interest of property owners.)

**END**