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## DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTION & CODE ENFORCEMENT

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Date: Monday, April 27, 2015

Subject: Mandatory Code Changes

To: Mechanical contractors and all other interested parties

The Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council (LSUCCC) and the State of Louisiana has mandated the adoption of the following ICC codes effective January 1, 2015:

- ❖ 2012 International Residential Code for One and Two Family Dwellings (except chapter 11)
- ❖ 2012 International Mechanical Code
- ❖ 2012 International Fuel Gas Code
- ❖ 2009 International Residential Code for One and Two Family Dwellings Chapter 11 only

### **Mandated Changes**

The following is a short list of the significant changes found in the 2012 International Residential Code and the 2009 International Residential Code Chapter 11 (Energy Efficiency) pertaining to the HVAC and Residential Home Building industry:

- ❖ Access doors from the conditioned spaces to unconditioned spaces shall be weather-stripped and have a minimum insulation value of R-4 (IRC N1102.2.3\*)
- ❖ Each dwelling unit that has a forced air heating/cooling unit shall have at least one programmable thermostat (IRC N1103.1.1)
- ❖ Building envelope air tightness (2009 IRC N1102.4.2) must be demonstrated by following options:
  - Option One – Tested air leakage (N1102.4.2.1) to be performed by Blower Door test with a leakage rate of less than 7 ACH
  - Option Two – Visual inspection (N1102.4.2.2) by Air Barrier and Insulation Checklist
- ❖ Duct leakage testing (2009 IRC N1103.2.2)
  - Post-construction tested at a leakage rate of 8 CFM or less per 100 square feet of conditioned floor area.
  - Rough-in tested at a leakage rate 6 CFM or less per 100 square feet of conditioned floor area.

- ❖ All heating and cooling equipment must be sized in accordance with ACCA Manual “J” (2012 IRC M1401.3), ACCA Manual “D” (2012 IRC M1601.1) and ACCA Manual “S” (2012 IRC M1401.3) approved calculation methods.
- ❖ Locking access port caps for all refrigeration and cooling equipment located outdoors (2012 IRC M1411.6)

### **Code Implementation Guidelines**

- ❖ Building Envelope Air Tightness
  - The contractor, owner, or design professional will choose which option (See previous section) he will use
  - When the blower door option is chosen then the test must be performed by individuals certified to perform such tests by a nationally recognized organization that trains and provides certification exams for proper procedures to perform such tests
  - The Air Tightness must be no more than 7 ACH and not less than 5 ACH. If less than 5 ACH than fresh air (Mechanical ventilation) must be introduced into the structure
  - The blower door test option will occur after rough-in and after the sealing of envelope penetrations
  - The test results must be submitted to the responsible building official
  - The visual inspection option, if chosen, will require the properly filled out submittal of the Air Barrier and Insulation Checklist to the supervising building official.
  - The Building Envelope Air Tightness options applies to all new construction and substantial improvements that include A/C and heater replacement.
- ❖ Duct Leakage Testing
  - Duct leakage testing is required when the entire duct system is replaced or new systems are installed
  - Duct testing can be performed by the non-certified HVAC contractor with responsible building official in attendance at site.
  - Duct testing by a certified individual can be performed and the reports generated, then submitted to the responsible building official.
  - Proof of certification by responsible individuals is required
  - Duct leakage testing can be performed at the rough-in stage or at the final inspection stage.
  - All submitted reports are subject to approval by the responsible building official
- ❖ Equipment Sizing
  - The Manual “J”, Manual “D” and Manual “S” reports must be submitted to the supervising building official at or before rough-in

*\*Attached documents include: Air Barrier Form, Blower Door Test Form and Duct Leakage Test Reporting Form.*