



2018 ICC Commentary for 501.3

Attics and crawl spaces are not considered to be outdoors. Exhaust ducts cannot terminate in these spaces. Exhaust ducts must connect directly to terminals that pass through the building envelope to the outside atmosphere. Pointing, aiming or similarly directing an exhaust pipe or duct at an opening in the envelope of the building (that is, attic louver, grille, ridge vent, eave vent or soffit vent) in no way ensures that all or any of the exhaust will reach the outdoors. In fact, it is likely that the majority, if not all, of the exhaust vapors and gases will discharge to the attic space rather than to the outdoors.

In the case of a duct that terminates in a ventilated soffit, the exhaust can rise into the attic as opposed to falling through the perforated soffit. The flow of air through an opening for attic ventilation is dependent on attic temperature, wind direction, wind speed and opening configuration and location, making attic air movement unpredictable and often in a direction not intended. Additionally, grilles and louvers offer resistance and interfere with the exhaust flow directed at them. This may cause deflection of exhaust back into the attic.