



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7677**



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Section 708.2

Question:

Is it the intent of 708.2 to require that all horizontal ducts leaving a 2-hour shaft be enclosed in rated construction if the where the duct leaves the shaft, it is protected by a UL listed rated fire & smoke damper?

Answer

Yes, it is the intent of the Code to enclose the duct until it gets to its exit point at the roof. Adding a fire damper at the underside of the roof is not acceptable.

The Mechanical Code, Section 607.5.5 states, "Shaft enclosures that are permitted to be penetrated by ducts and air transfer openings shall be protected with approved fire and smoke dampers." The key word is "permitted."

Commentary:

Refer to section 607.5.5 2014 FBC (M), also, look at 607.5.2 Fire barriers. In the Building volume, 713.7.1: "Openings other than those necessary for the purpose of the shaft shall not be permitted in shaft enclosures." At the top of a riser, per the requester, "At the 11th floor ceiling, the ducts exit the shafts and offset horizontally to the roof top unit above." The offset may be necessary, but leaving the shaft is not necessary. Entry points such as individual exhaust ducts connected to the riser do need to penetrate the shaft for obvious reasons. An offset at the top does not need to penetrate the shaft if the shaft offsets along with the duct. Therefore the penetration of the shaft at the top, as described is not allowed with or without a fire damper.

Further, the source Code for all this magnificence is NFPA 90A. In NFPA 90A, 5.3.4.1 states, "air ducts that pass through the floors of buildings that require the protection of vertical openings shall be enclosed with partitions..." The main duct - whether it offsets or not at the top - does pass through floors that require the protection of vertical openings. It must therefore be enclosed all the way to the roof deck to include the horizontal offset.

Notice:

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