

**Amendments to the  
2021 International Mechanical Code  
City of Merkel, Texas**

The following sections, paragraphs, and sentences of the 2021 International Mechanical Code are hereby amended as follows:

*Appendices B and C are excluded from adoption.*

**{Section 101.1; change to read as follows:}**

**Section 101.1 Title.** The regulations shall be known as the Mechanical Code of the City of Merkel, Texas, hereinafter referred to as “this code.”

*(Reason: Legal wording to recognize municipality.)*

**{Section 102.8; change to read as follows:}**

**102.8 Referenced Codes and Standards.** The codes and standards referenced herein shall be those that are listed in Chapter 15 and such codes, when specifically adopted, and standards shall be considered part of the requirements of this code to the prescribed extent of each such reference. Whenever amendments have been adopted to the referenced codes and standards, each reference to said code and standard shall be considered to reference the adopted amendments. Any reference to NFPA 70 shall mean the Electrical Code as adopted.

*(Reason: Legal wording to recognize locally adopted codes and amendments adopted with referenced codes.)*

**{103.1; amend first sentence as follows:}**

**103.1 Creation of agency.** The Building Inspections Division is hereby created... (remainder unchanged)

*(Reason: To identify the division in charge of this code.)*

**{109.2; amend to read as follows:}**

**109.2 Schedule of permit fees.** Permit fees are set by Merkel City Council ordinance. Fees are located here: <https://merkeltxas.com/code-enforcementbuilding-inspection/>. Fees published are subject to change at any time by Council action to ordinance.

*(Reason: To direct applicant in the correct location.)*

**{109.6; amend to read as follows:}**

**109.6 Fee Refunds.** The Building Official shall authorize the refunding of fees as follows:

The building official shall authorize refunding of any fee paid hereunder in which was erroneously paid or collected. The building official may authorize refunding of not more than 80 percent of the permit fee paid when no work has been done under a permit issued in accordance with this code. The building official shall not authorize refunding of any fee paid except on written application filed by the permit holder not later than 180 days after the date of fee payment.

*(Reason: Clarification of interpretation.)*

**{113.2; add last sentence as follows:}**

**113.2 Stop work orders.** A stop work order release fee in the amount of \$200.00 shall be paid prior to work commencing.

*(Reason: To clarify the penalty.)*

**{114.1; Means of Appeal, amend to read as follows:}**

**114.1 General.** In order to hear and decide appeals of order, decisions or determinations made by the Building official relative to the application and interpretation of this code, appeals may be heard by the Merkel City Council.

*(Reason: To clarify the appropriate board.)*

**{114.3; delete this section.}**

**114.3 Qualifications.**

*(Reason: To allow the municipality to set up requirements for their board.)*

**{115.4; Violation Penalties. Delete Section.}**

*(Reason: Already covered within the Code of Ordinance.)*

**{Section 306.3; change to read as follows:}**

**[M] 306.3 Appliances in attics.** Attics containing appliances shall be provided . . . *{bulk of paragraph unchanged}* . . . side of the *appliance*. The clear *access* opening dimensions shall be a minimum of 20 inches by 30 inches (508 mm by 762 mm), and large enough to allow removal of the largest *appliance*. As a minimum, for access to the attic space, provide one of the following:

1. A permanent stair.
2. A pull down stair with a minimum 300 lb (136 kg) capacity.
3. An access door from an upper floor level.
4. Access Panel may be used in lieu of items 1, 2, and 3 with prior approval of the code official due to building conditions.

*(Reason: To provide a safe means of accessibility to appliances in attics and to allow for different types of construction limitations.*

**{Section 306.5; change to read as follows:}**

**306.5 Equipment and Appliances on Roofs or Elevated Structures.** Where *equipment* requiring *access* or appliances are located on an elevated structure or the roof of a building such that personnel will have to climb higher than 16 feet (4877 mm) above grade to access such equipment or appliances, an interior or exterior means of access shall be provided. Exterior ladders providing roof access need not extend closer than 12 feet (2438 mm) to the finish grade or floor level below and shall extend to the *equipment* and appliances' level service space. Such *access* shall . . . *{bulk of section to read the same}* . . . not require climbing over obstructions greater than 30" in height or walking on roofs having a slope greater than four units vertical in 12 units horizontal (33-percent slope). Such access shall not require the use of portable ladders. Where access involves climbing over parapet walls, the height shall be measured to the top of the parapet wall ... *{remainder of text unchanged}*.

*(Reason: To assure access to roof appliances and provide options to not extend exterior ladders to grade. Consistent with IFGC amendments.)*

**{Section 306.5.1; change to read as follows:}**

**306.5.1 Sloped Roofs.** Where appliances, *equipment*, fans or other components that require service are installed on a roof having a slope of three units vertical in 12 units horizontal (25-percent slope) or greater and having an edge more than 30 inches (762 mm) above grade at such edge, a catwalk at least 16 inches in width with substantial cleats spaced not more than 16 inches apart shall be provided from the roof access to a level platform at the appliance. ...*{remainder of text unchanged}*.

*(Reason: To assure safe access to roof appliances. Consistent with IFGC amendments.)*

**[Section 306; add Section 306.6 to read as follows:]**

**306.6 Water Heaters Above Ground or Floor.** When the mezzanine or platform in which a water heater is installed is more than eight (8) feet (2438 mm) above the ground or floor level, it shall be made accessible by a stairway or permanent ladder fastened to the building.

**Exception:** A maximum 10 gallon water heater (or larger with approval) is capable of being accessed through a lay-in ceiling and the water heater installed is not more than ten (10) feet (3048 mm) above the ground or floor level and may be reached with a portable ladder.

*(Reason: To provide safe access to water heaters and to provide lighting and receptacle for maintenance of equipment. Consistent with regional amendments to IFGC 306.3 and International Plumbing Code (IPC) 502.3.)*

**{307.2.1; add the following at the end of this section:}**

**307.2.1 Condensate disposal.**

Approved places of disposal.

1. The fixture side of a code approved p-trap located within the interior of the structure.
2. Engineered French drain system.

**Exception:** Existing building may continue to drain onto the roof.

*(Reason: To clarify the proper disposal locations.)*

**{Section 403.2.1; add an item 5 to read as follows:}**

**403.2.1 Recirculation of air.**

5. Toilet rooms within private dwellings that contain only a water closet, lavatory, or combination thereof may be ventilated with an approved mechanical recirculating fan or similar device designed to remove odors from the air.

*(Reason: Consistent with common regional practice. Consistent with regional amendment to International Residential Code (IRC) R303.3.)*

**{Section 501.3; add an exception to read as follows:}**

**501.3 Exhaust Discharge.** The air removed by every mechanical exhaust system shall be discharged outdoors at a point where it will not cause a public nuisance and not less than the distances specified in Section 501.3.1. The air shall be discharged to a location from which it cannot again be readily drawn in by a ventilating system. Air shall not be exhausted into an attic

or crawl space, or be directed onto walkways.

**Exceptions:**

4. Toilet room exhaust ducts may terminate in a warehouse or shop area when infiltration of outside air is present.

*(Reason: Provide a reasonable alternative in areas where a large volume of outside air is present.)*

**{505.3; amend exceptions 2.3 and 2.4;}**

**505.3 Exhaust ducts.**

- Exceptions:** 2.3. (text unchanged) not more than 4 inch (102 mm) (text unchanged)
- 2.4. (text unchanged) not more than 4 inch (102 mm) (text unchanged)

*(Reason: Provide a reasonable alternative in areas, consistent with local practices.)*

**{1111.1; add the following sentence to the end:}**

**1111.1 Testing required.....** It shall be the owner or owner's representative's responsibility to ensure the following emergency devices:

*(Reason: To provide who is responsible for these devices.)*

**End**