

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

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

*Appendices A, F and plumbing provisions excepted from: ICC A117.1-2017 are excluded from adoption.*

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**{101.1; addition of jurisdiction to the first sentence:}**

**101.1 Title.** These regulations shall be known as the Plumbing Code of the City of Merkel hereinafter referred to as “this code.”

(Reason: To name jurisdiction.)

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

**102.8 Referenced codes and standards.** The codes and standards referenced in this code shall be those that are listed in Chapter 15 and such codes, when specifically adopted, and standards shall be considered as 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.)*

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

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

(Reason: To identify division in charge of enforcement.)

**{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://merkeltexas.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.)

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

**109.5 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; amend last sentence as follows:}**

**113.4 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; 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.)

{305.4.1; amend to read as follows:}

**305.4.1 Sewer depth.** Building sewers that connect to private sewage disposal systems shall be installed not less than 12 inches (304 mm) below finish grade.

*(Reason: Provides sewer depth that is common in this region.)*

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

**314.2.1 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.)*

{314.2.1.1; fix typo to read as follows:}

**314.2.1.1 Condensate discharge.**

{Section 413.4; change to read as follows:}

**413.4 Required location for floor drains ~~Public laundries and central washing facilities.~~ Floor drains shall be installed in the following areas:**

1. In public laundries and in the central washing facilities of multiple family dwellings, the rooms containing automatic clothes washers shall be provided with floor drains located to readily drain the entire floor area. Such drains shall have a minimum outlet of not less than 3 inches (76 mm) in diameter.

2. Commercial kitchens. In lieu of floor drains in commercial kitchens, the Code Official may accept floor sinks.

3. Public restrooms.

*(Reason: To make more compatible with local health code practices.)*

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

**421.3 Shower waste outlet.** Waste outlets serving showers shall not be less than 2 inches (52 mm) ~~1 1/2~~ in diameter and, (remainder unchanged)

*(Reason: Compatible with local practices for this type of fixture.)*

**{Section 502.3; change to read as follows:}**

**502.3 Water heaters installed in attics.** Attics containing a water heater shall be provided . . . {bulk of paragraph unchanged} . . . side of the water heater. The clear access opening dimensions shall be not less than 20 inches by 30 inches (508 mm by 762 mm) where such dimensions are large enough to allow removal of the water heater. 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.

**Exceptions:**

1. The passageway and level service space are not required where the appliance is capable of being serviced and removed... {remainder of text unchanged}

*(Reason: To provide a safe means of accessibility to appliances in attics and to allow for different types of construction limitations. Consistent with amendment to IMC and IFGC)*

**{Section 502.6; add Section 502.6 to read as follows:}**

**502.6 Water heaters above ground or floor.** When the attic, roof, 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 max 10-gallon water heater (or larger with approval) is capable of being accessed through a lay-in ceiling and a water heater is 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. (Consistent with regional amendments to IFGC 306.3 and IMC 306.3. Note reference to amendment above.)*

**{Section 504.6; change to read as follows:}**

**504.6 Requirements for discharge piping.** The discharge piping serving a pressure relief valve, temperature relief valve or combination thereof shall:

1. Not be directly connected to the drainage system.
2. Discharge through an air gap. ~~located in the same room as the water heater.~~
3. Not be smaller than the diameter of the outlet of the valve served and shall discharge full size to the air gap.
4. Serve a single relief device and shall not connect to piping serving any other relief device or equipment.

**Exception:** Multiple relief devices may be installed to a single T & P discharge piping system when *approved* by the administrative authority and permitted by the manufacture's installation instructions and installed with those instructions.

5. Discharge to ~~the floor, to the pan serving the water heater or storage tank, to a waste receptor~~ an approved location or to the outdoors.

6 Through 14 to remain the same.

*(Reason: To provide a higher degree of safety.)*

**{703.6: delete this section.}**

**703.6 Combined sanitary and storm public sewer.**

*(Reason: not a standard practice in this region)*

**{Table 709.1; amend bathtub and shower trap size as follows:}**

**Table 709.1 Drainage fixture units and groups.**

Bathtub (with or without shower or whirlpool attachment)

DFU= 2     Min Trap size= 2"

Shower (based on total flow rate through shower head and body part)

5.7gpm or less     DFU= 2     Min Trap size= 2"

*(Reason: To adequately accommodate load and accommodate local standard practices.)*

**{Section 713, 713.1; change to read as follows:}**

**SECTION 713**

**ENGINEERED ~~COMPUTERIZED~~ DRAINAGE DESIGN**

**713.1 Design of drainage system.** The sizing, design and layout of the drainage system shall be permitted to be designed by approved ~~computer~~ registered engineer using design methods.

*(Reason: Code was too restrictive.)*

**{Section 717.2 change to read as follows:}**

**717.2 Applicability.** The relining of existing building sewers and building drainage piping shall be limited to gravity drainage piping 2 inches (51 mm) ***..remainder of text to stay the same.***

*(Reason: common practice with local contractors)*

**{Section 903.1; change to read as follows:}**

**903.1.1 Roof extension unprotected.** Open vent pipes that extend through a roof shall be terminated not less than six (6) inches (152 mm) above the roof.

*(Reason: To provide regional guideline on standard installation method for this area and address reference number correction.)*

**{Section 1106.1; change to read as follows:}**

**1106.1 General.** The size of the vertical conductors and leaders, building storm drains, building storm sewers, and any horizontal branches of such drains or sewers shall be based on six (6) inches per hour. ~~the 100-year hourly rainfall rate indicated in Figures 1106.1(1) through 1106.1(5) or on other rainfall rates determined from approved local weather data.~~

*(Reason: Specify the roof drain size normally used in the area.)*

**{Section 1108.3; change to read as follows:}**

**1108.3 Sizing of secondary drains.** Secondary (emergency) roof drain systems shall be sized in accordance with Section 1106. ~~based on the rainfall rate for which the primary system is sized~~ Scuppers shall be sized to prevent the depth of ponding water from exceeding that for which the roof was designed as determined by Section 1101.7. Scuppers shall not have an opening dimension of less than 4 inches (102 mm). The flow through the primary system shall not be considered when sizing the secondary roof drain system.

*(Reason: Specify that overflow drainage is to be the same size as the normal roof drains.)*

**{Section 1109; delete this section.}**

**\*\*\*Section 1202.1; delete Exceptions 1 and 2.**

*(Reason: State law already specifies that Med Gas systems must comply with NFPA 99.)*

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***END***