

ABILENE MECHANICAL CODE PAMPHLET



CITY OF ABILENE

BUILDING INSPECTION

**TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 2012
INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE**

This booklet is to be used in conjunction with the *2012 International Mechanical Code*, published by the International Code Council, Inc. This pamphlet and the *2012 International Mechanical Code* comprise the Mechanical Code for the City of Abilene, Texas.

This code was adopted by the City Council on **July 24, 2014** Ordinance No. **42-2014** of the Municipal Code, with an effective date of **August 26, 2014**.

TELEPHONE

Building Inspections-- (325) 676-6232/676-6273
Mechanical/Plumbing Inspectors (325) 676-6274/676-6354/676-6320

FAX NUMBER

(325) 676-6288

WEBSITE

<http://www.abilenetx.com/BuildingInspection>

E-MAIL

BuildingPermits@abilenetx.com

BUILDING INSPECTIONS

**555 Walnut St, Room 100
Abilene, Texas 79601**

The following Chapters of the *2012 International Mechanical Code*, are adopted in their entirety:

Chapters 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 – SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION	1
CHAPTER 2 - DEFINITIONS.....	No Amendments
CHAPTER 3 - GENERAL REGULATIONS	5
CHAPTER 4 - VENTILATION.....	No Amendments
CHAPTER 5 - EXHAUST SYSTEMS	7
CHAPTER 6 - DUCT SYSTEMS	No Amendments
CHAPTER 7 - COMBUSTION AIR	No Amendments
CHAPTER 8 - CHIMNEYS AND VENTS	No Amendments
CHAPTER 9 - SPECIFIC APPLIANCES, FIREPLACES, AND SOLID FUEL-BURNING EQUIPMENT	No Amendments
CHAPTER 10 - BOILERS, WATER HEATERS AND PRESSURE VESSELS.....	No Amendments
CHAPTER 11 - REFRIGERATION.....	8
CHAPTER 12 - HYDRONIC PIPING	No Amendments
CHAPTER 13 - FUEL OIL PIPING AND STORAGE	No Amendments
CHAPTER 14 - SOLAR SYSTEMS.....	No Amendments
CHAPTER 15 - REFERENCE STANDARDS	No Amendments
APPENDIX B - PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE	9

ABILENE MECHANICAL CODE

Adopt the *2012 International Mechanical Code* in its entirety, with the following amendments.

CHAPTER 1 SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION

Section 101 General

101.1 Title. *{Amend to read as follows:}*

These regulations shall be known as the *Mechanical Code* of the City of Abilene, Texas, hereinafter referred to as “this code”.

Section 102 Applicability

102.4 Additions, alterations or repairs. *{Add the following at the end of this section.}*

“Like for like” change outs on existing buildings will be exempt from the outside air ventilation requirements of Section 403.2, when there is no change of occupancy which would result in a greater occupant load or more hazardous use.

Section 103 Department of Mechanical Inspection

103.1 General *{Amend to read as follows.}*

Mechanical inspections shall be a part of the Building Inspection Department and the executive official in charge thereof shall be known as the code official.

103.3 Deputies. *{Add the following at the end of this section.}*

103.3.1 Mechanical inspector requirements. The mechanical and/or plumbing/mechanical inspectors are hereby made a part of the Building Inspection Department of the City of Abilene. They shall have had at least 5 years of satisfactory experience in the trades of mechanical and/or plumbing work.

Section 106 Permits

106.1 When required. *{Add the following sub-sections.}*

106.1.1 Mechanical License Required. All persons who wish to obtain a permit for work covered by this code must first file a copy of the required license, proof of insurance, and contractor’s registration with the Building Inspection Department. All persons who engage in the business of mechanical contracting shall possess a license as required for Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Contractors in accordance with the State of Texas licensing requirements; reference *Title 8. Regulation of Environmental and Industrial Trade, Chapter 1302.*

106.1.1.1 Exemptions. *{Add the following excerpt from the State of Texas Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Contractors License Law.}*

SUBCHAPTER B. EXEMPTIONS

§ 1302.051. Limitation on Exemptions

The exemptions provided by this subchapter do not exempt a person from the application of Subchapter H, except as otherwise provided by Subchapter H.

§ 1302.052. Application of Municipal Ordinances

Work performed by a person who is exempt from this chapter is subject to any permit, inspection, or approval required by a municipal ordinance.

§ 1302.053. Homeowners

This chapter does not apply to a person who engages in air conditioning and refrigeration contracting in a building owned solely by the person as the person's home.

§ 1302.054. Certain Maintenance Personnel

This chapter does not apply to a person who performs air conditioning and refrigeration maintenance work if:

- (1) the person is a maintenance person or maintenance engineer and is a regular employee of the owner, lessee, or management company of the property where the work is being performed;
- (2) the person performs the work in connection with the business in which the person is employed; and
- (3) the person and the person's employer do not engage in air conditioning and refrigeration contracting for the public.

§ 1302.055. Certain Utilities Personnel

This chapter does not apply to a person who engages in air conditioning and refrigeration contracting and is regularly employed by a regulated electric or gas utility.

§ 1302.056. Engineers

This chapter does not apply to a person who is licensed as an engineer under Chapter 1001 and engages in air conditioning and refrigeration contracting work in connection with the business in which the person is employed but does not engage in that work for the public.

§ 1302.057. Industrial Operation Personnel

This chapter does not apply to a person who is employed by an industrial operation, including a chemical plant, petrochemical plant, refinery, natural gas plant, or natural gas treating plant, and performs process cooling or heating work for the operation.

§ 1302.058. Certain Products or Equipment

This chapter does not apply to a person who engages in air conditioning and refrigeration contracting on:

- (1) a portable or self-contained ductless air conditioning product that has a cooling capacity of three tons or less;
- (2) a portable or self-contained heating product that does not require the forced movement of air outside the heating unit;
- (3) environmental air conditioning equipment that is intended for temporary use and is not fixed in place; or
- (4) a residential refrigerator, freezer, or ice machine.

§ 1302.059. Motor Vehicles

This chapter does not apply to a person who engages in or employs a person who engages in air conditioning services only on a motor vehicle or MVAC-like appliance air conditioner.

§ 1302.060. Vent Hoods

This chapter does not apply to a person who installs, repairs, or removes a vent hood of the type commonly used in residential or commercial kitchens.

§ 1302.061. Manufactured Homes

This chapter does not apply to a person or entity licensed as a manufacturer, retailer, rebuilder, or installer under Chapter 1201 and engaged exclusively in air conditioning and refrigeration contracting for manufactured homes if the installation of air conditioning components at the site where the home will be occupied is performed by a person licensed under this chapter.

§ 1302.063. No Exemption for Certain Persons Licensed Under Other Law

A person who is licensed and engaged in business in this state as a plumber or who is regulated under Chapter 113, Natural Resources Code, may not engage or offer or attempt to engage in air conditioning and refrigeration contracting without a license under this chapter.

106.3 Application for Permit. *{Delete in its entirety and insert the following.}*

Each application for a permit, with the required fee, shall be filed with the code official on a form furnished for that purpose, giving a description of the nature of work to be performed, prior to commencing the work.

106.5 Fees *{Add the following.}*

Permits may be obtained by charge account with the following restrictions:

- (a) A deposit of \$150.00 shall be made by the applicant to the City of Abilene.
- (b) The deposit is security for the account and shall not be applied to the account of the applicant.
- (c) Every applicant shall be billed each month for the total balance of his account and a written list of permits shall be identified on the invoice.
- (d) All accounts shall be payable within 10 days after the billing date; any account not paid within 10 days, upon notice from the Accounting Department to the Building Inspection Department, shall not be eligible for further issuance of permits. Failure to pay said account will result in the applicant's deposit being forfeited to the City of Abilene. Charging privileges are therefore revoked, and a new deposit along with payment of all bills due to the City of Abilene, must be paid before any additional charges are permitted.

106.5.1 Work commencing before permit issuance. *{Add the following.}*

Further work performed by the same contractor without permits will result in a penalty and investigation fee of 10 times the amount of the permit fee required by this code if a permit were to be issued. At the end of 12 months from issuance of a penalty fee, a contractor with no further violations shall be determined to start without previous penalties.

106.5.2 Fee schedule. *{Delete in its entirety and insert the following.}*

Fees for mechanical work shall be set by Abilene City Council Resolution. **Appendix B** references approved fees at the time of adoption of this code. Fees published in this document are subject to change by Council action.

106.5.3 Fee refunds.

- 2. *{Amend to read as follows.}*
Not more than 80% of the permit fee paid when no work has been done under a permit issued in accordance with this code.
- 3. *{Delete in its entirety.}*

{Add the following subsection.}

106.6 Contractor's Registration Required. Prior to obtaining permits, mechanical contractors must be on file, as a registered contractor, with the code official or the City of Abilene, as per Section 8-161 of the Municipal Code, Article IV, Licenses and Registration.

**Section 108
Violations**

108.3 Prosecution of violations. *{Delete in its entirety and insert the following.}*

If notice of violation is not complied with promptly, the code official or his/her deputies may issue citations regarding the offense/offenses. In addition, legal counsel of the jurisdiction may be requested to institute the appropriate proceeding at law or in equity to restrain, correct, or abate such violation.

108.4 Violation penalties. *{Amend to read as follows.}*

.....under the provisions of this code, shall be subject to penalties as prescribed by law. Any such violation shall be a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine, not to exceed \$500. Each day a violation of any of the provisions of this Code is committed,

or each day any such violation continues, shall constitute a separate offense and shall be subject to prosecution as stated above.

108.5 Stop Work Orders. *{Amend the last sentence to read as follows.}*

...Any person who shall continue any work on the system after having been served with a stop work order, except such work as that person is directed to perform to remove a violation or unsafe condition, shall be subject to a citation for a Class C Misdemeanor.

{Delete Section 109 in its entirety and insert the following.}

**Section 109
Board of Appeals**

109.1 General. The Board of Appeals may hear appeals of any decision of the building official or his/her representatives regarding the electrical, mechanical, plumbing, or swimming pool ordinance. The board does not have the authority to waive code requirements, but may consider alternate materials and methods for the purpose of complying with the provisions of this code. The board shall be as is established in the Municipal Code, Article V, Division 3, Section 8-391 through Section 8-407 for the Mechanical, Plumbing, Electrical and Swimming Pool Board of Appeals.

**CHAPTER 3
GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**Section 302
Protection of Structure**

{Add the following sub-section.}

302.1.1 Structural Forces. The addition of equipment to an existing structure shall be evaluated to determine that the structure will support the loads proposed by the weight and vibration of the equipment. The combined weight of the unit and components greater than 550 pounds shall require the roof load calculations and support members be designed by an engineer licensed by the State of Texas.

**Section 304
Installation**

304.7 Private garages. *{This is deleted in its entirety.}*

304.11 Guards. *{Add the following Exceptions.}*

Exceptions:

1. Single family residences.
2. Existing units on one-story buildings, no greater than 16' above ground level.
3. A 30" parapet may be substituted for the guard.

**Section 305
Piping Support**

305.5 Protection against physical damage. *{Amend the last sentence as follows.}*

..., shall cover the area of the pipe where the member is notched or bored, and shall be a minimum of 3 inches (76.2mm) at sole plates and top plates.

Section 306
Access and Service Space

306.3 Appliances in attics. *{Delete in its entirety and add the following.}*

Attics containing equipment requiring access shall be provided with an opening and an unobstructed passageway large enough to allow removal of the largest piece of equipment. The access opening dimensions shall be a minimum of 22 inches by 30 inches clear, provided such dimensions allow removal of the largest piece of equipment. The area from the attic way access to the furnace, coil, or air handler shall be constructed of a minimum ½" plywood/OSB board, of continuous unobstructed solid flooring not less than 24 inches wide, with a minimum head clearance of 30 inches from an entrance opening to the equipment.

A level working platform not less than 30 inches in depth shall be provided in front of the entire fire-box side of the warm-air furnace, and if the furnace temperature-limit control, air filter, fuel-control valve, or air-handling unit is not serviceable from the firebox side of the furnace, a continuous floor not less than 24 inches in width shall be provided from the platform in front of the firebox side of the furnace to and in front of this equipment.

Exception: A working platform need not be provided when the equipment can be serviced from the required access opening.

Provide one lighting fixture per 20 linear foot of passageway, in addition to a lighting fixture at or near the equipment, and a receptacle in accordance with the Electrical Code, adopted by the City of Abilene.

306.5 Equipment and appliances on roofs or elevated structures. *{Amend to read as follows.}*

Where equipment and appliances requiring access are installed on roofs or elevated structures, such access shall be provided by a permanent approved means of access. Permanent exterior ladders providing roof access need not extend closer than 16 feet (4877mm) to the finish grade or floor level below and shall extend to the equipment's level service space. An approved device is to be mounted to the structure that will assist in preventing an extension ladder from falling. Such access shall ...*{Balance of paragraph to remain the same.}*

{Amend to number existing exception as #1 and add and additional exception as follows.}

Exception:

1. This section shall not apply to Group R-3 occupancies.
2. Existing structures less than three (3) stories in height.

Section 306.5.1 Sloped roof. *{Add the following Exception.}*

Exceptions:

1. Existing structures less than three (3) stories in height.

Section 307
Condensate Disposal

307.2.1 Condensate disposal. *{Add the following to this section.}*

Approved places of disposal of condensate are as follows:

1. French drains.
2. Landscape area.
3. Storm sewers.

4. Fixture side of properly installed trap.
5. Existing buildings may drain condensate on the roof.

307.2.2 Drain pipe materials and sizes. *{Amend the first sentence as follows.}*
Delete polybutylene.

307.2.2 Drain pipe materials and sizes. *{Add the following sentence to the end of this paragraph.}*

Where plastic pipe is subject to ultra-violet rays, the piping shall be rated for the exposure or shall be protected by exterior grade paint or approved coverings.

CHAPTER 5 EXHAUST SYSTEMS

Section 501 General

501.3.1 Location of exhaust outlets. *{Amend item #3 to add an exception as follows.}*

Exception:

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

Section 504 Clothes Dyer Exhaust

504.5 Makeup air. *{Amend the first sentence to read as follows.}*

Installations exhausting more than 250 cfm (0.1125m³/s) shall be provided with makeup air.

Section 505 Domestic Kitchen Exhaust Equipment

505.1 Domestic Systems. *{Amend Exception 2 to read as follows.}*

Exceptions:

2. Ducts for domestic kitchen cooking appliances equipped with downdraft exhaust systems shall be permitted to be constructed of PVC pipe provided that the installation complies with all of the following:

2.3. The PVC duct shall extend not greater than 4 inches above the indoor concrete floor surface.

{2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5 remain unaltered}

Section 506 Commercial Kitchen Hood Ventilation System Ducts and Exhaust Equipment

506.3.11.4 Duct enclosure not required. *{Delete this in its entirety.}*

506.3.12 Grease duct fire-resistive access opening. *{Amend the second sentence to read as follows.}*

... Access openings shall be equipped with tight-fitting doors that are equal in fire-resistive protection to that of the shaft or enclosure. ...*{The remainder stays the same.}*

Section 507 Commercial Kitchen Hoods

507.2.1.1 Operation. *{Amend to read as follows:}*

Type I hood systems shall be designed and installed to automatically activate the exhaust fan whenever cooking operations occur. The activation of the exhaust fan shall occur through an interlock with the cooking appliances, by means of heat sensors or by means of other *approved* methods. A method of interlock between an exhaust hood system and cooking appliances shall not involve or depend upon any component of a fire extinguishing system.

507.2.2 Type II hoods.

Exception: *{Add the following Exception.}*

Dishwashers utilizing a chemical disinfectant system in lieu of higher temperature water that produces steam.

Section 508 Commercial Kitchen Makeup Air

508.1.1 Makeup air temperature. *{Delete this in its entirety.}*

CHAPTER 11 REFRIGERATION

Section 1101 General

1101.10 Locking access port caps. *{Delete this in its entirety.}*

Section 1109 Periodic Testing

1109.1 Testing required.*{Amend to read as follows:}*

It shall be the owner or owner's representative's responsibility to ensure the following emergency devices are periodically tested in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

{No change to items 1 through 4.}

**CITY OF ABILENE
MECHANICAL PERMIT FEES
APPENDIX B**

Minimum Permit Fee	\$50.00
Reinspection Fee	75.00
Forced Air or Gravity Type Furnace up to 150,000 BTU's	10.00
Forced Air or Gravity Type Furnace over 150,000 BTU's	15.00
Floor Furnaces, Including Vent	8.00
Suspended Unit Heater or Wall Heater	6.00
Boilers or Refrigeration Compressor up to 3 HP	6.00
or Refrigeration Compressor over 3 HP, to/and including 15 HP	10.00
Boilers or Refrigeration Compressor over 15 HP, to/and including 30 HP	15.00
Boilers or Refrigeration Compressor over 30 HP, to/and including 50 HP	25.00
Boilers or Refrigeration Compressor over 50 HP	50.00
Air Handler Units up to 10,000 CFM	5.00
Air Handler Units over 10,000 CFM	8.00
Dryer, Bathroom, and Kitchen Ventilation Fans, that are a portion of any Heating or Cooling System and connected to a Duct	3.00
Installation of a Refrigerant Air Conditioner System up to 7½ Tons	10.00
Installation of a Refrigerant Air Conditioner over 7½ Tons	15.00
Installation of Incinerator	4.00
Other Appliances, etc.	4.00
Type I Grease Hood	25.00
Type II Vent-A-Hood	10.00
Duct (not part of permitted equipment) per Inspection	5.00
Fireplaces (Pre-Fab)	5.00
Hydronic Piping Test	15.00

OTHER INSPECTIONS AND FEES

Inspections outside of normal business hours (Minimum Charge-two hours)	200.00
Special Request Inspections (Minimum Charge-one hour)	100.00
Board of Building Standards and Mechanical, Plumbing, Electrical, and Swimming Pool Board of Appeals request for hearing for alternate methods and materials	100.00
Contractor's Registration (annually, due by December 31 of each year)	65.00
Contractor's Registration Initial Set-up Fee	50.00
Stop Work Order Release Fee	125.00