



**DATE:** October 1, 2021  
**INTERPRETATION NO.:** CI2021-0007  
**TITLE:** Automatic Shut Off for Air Moving Equipment in Existing Buildings  
**RELATED DEPT. & DIVISION:** Development Services Department  
**TOPIC:** HVAC  
**DECISION MAKER:** Beth M. Culver, AIA, CBO, Building Official

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**SUMMARY:** Automatic shut-off devices must be installed on existing air moving systems when there is any type of alteration, change, or modification to a system.

**CODE SECTIONS:** [2015 Uniform Mechanical Code](#) (UMC)

- §102.0
- §608.0

[Ordinance No. 20170608-056](#)

- *Local Amendment:* §608.0

2015 International Existing Building Code (IEBC)

- [§505](#)
- [§506](#)

**CODE INTERPRETATION:**

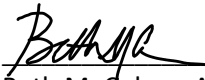
Automatic shut-off devices must be installed on existing air moving systems when there is any type of alteration, change, or modification to a system.

When an alteration has occurred to an existing mechanical system, automatic shut-off devices shall be installed according to Section 608.0 of the 2015 UMC and Ordinance No. 20170608-056. This shall apply to the system as a whole and/or all air moving devices that share either a common supply and/or a common return within the area of construction covered under the permitted scope of work.

The building as a whole shall not be made to comply unless the area of construction meets the requirements under Section 505 or 506 of the 2015 International Existing Building Code.

Section 505 of the IEBC is a level 3 alteration where the work area exceeds 50% of the aggregate area of the building. When the scope of work is more than 50%, the entire building shall comply with Section 608.0 of the 2015 Mechanical Code.

Section 506 of the IEBC is a change of occupancy. The IEBC defines a change of occupancy as “a change in the purpose or level of activity within a building that involves a change in the application of the requirements of this code.” When the change of occupancy creates an increase in hazard, the entire building shall comply with Section 608.0 of the 2015 Mechanical Code.



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Beth M. Culver, AIA, CBO, Building Official

*This interpretation was previously approved as CI2014-0005 by Dan McNabb, Deputy Building Official.*