



Planning & Development Services

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December 14, 2010

Dear Building and Mechanical Contractors,

The Boise City Council recently adopted the 2009 International Building Code (IBC), 2009 International Residential Code (IRC) and 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). As part of this code adoption, it came to the attention of the City that there were provisions found in the Energy Conservation Code and Residential Code that were not being actively enforced by the City. These requirements include performing plan review of residential mechanical systems and the testing of residential systems for compliance with energy conservation standards. Details of these requirements were discussed in the fall edition of the Hammer and Nail Newsletter and are attached.

The City of Boise will begin enforcing these IECC and IRC provisions January 1, 2011. All plans for new single family homes that are submitted must include a report with a duct design layout generated from an Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA) approved software package which demonstrates that the mechanical system design meets the 2009 IECC requirements. There are several software packages that can demonstrate this compliance, including Wrightsoft which is accepted by other jurisdictions in the Treasure Valley.

The City will also be requiring that a duct blaster or duct tightness test be witnessed by the mechanical inspector at the rough-in or final inspection and the report presented to the inspector for the permanent permit record for all new single family homes. The City will also require a blower door test or a visual inspection in accordance with section 402.4.2.1 of the 2009 IECC be performed by a third party and the report presented to the PDS building inspector prior to the final inspection. Both of these tests will help ensure that when the customer receives the house that the heating and air conditioning systems are as energy efficient as the new codes require.

The City held training for contractors and staff on duct blaster testing and flow hood/balancing at the end of November and received helpful feedback from the few contractors that were able to attend. A flow hood/balancing test will be required on all new single family homes by the City beginning January 1, 2011. For the first 6 months of 2011, the City of Boise will accept a signed air balance report from the mechanical contractor or a Certified Air Balancing Contractor to demonstrate compliance with this requirement. The report is to be signed and provided to the mechanical inspector at the final inspection.

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The City is working on another on-site training in January which will cover duct testing, flow hood/balancing and blower door testing. If you would like to attend this training to learn more about these tests and what is required by the City, please contact Lee Rice at 794-9486, Bob Archibald at 794-9459, or Jason Blais at 384-3807.

We understand that these are significant changes for you and your business. We are committed to working with you and answering questions as they arise as we make this transition.

Sincerely,



Lee Rice
Plumbing/Mechanical Supervisor



Bob Archibald
Inspections Manager



Jason Blais
Building Official