

MEMORANDUM

To: All Fire Inspectors
From: Christian Noles, P.E., Chief Fire Protection Engineer
Henry Webster, P.E., Chief Mechanical Engineer
Date: Monday, December 15, 2003
Re: Inspection Requirements for Type I and Type II Commercial Kitchen Hoods

The purpose of this memo is to address the difference between design criteria for commercial kitchen hoods contained in Section 507 of the North Carolina Mechanical Code [NCMC] and the inspection criteria contained in Section 609 of the North Carolina Fire Prevention Code [NCFPC].

Section 507 of the NCMC contains hood guidelines, including the classification of the hood, dependent on the cooking device with which it is used. The classification of the hoods is as follows:

Type I Hoods protect commercial food heat-processing appliances that produce grease-laden vapors or smoke, such as pizza ovens for pizza restaurants, grills, griddles, woks, char-broilers, deep-fat fryers, etc.

Type II Hoods protect devices that produce little, if any, grease-laden vapors such as pastry, cookie, cake and bread ovens, convection and small conveyor type ovens (not for pizza restaurants), steam cookers and dishwashing machines.

Note that, of the two, the cooking devices representing a potential fire hazard are protected with the Type I hood.

To concentrate the inspections to the assemblies of concern, Section 609.1 of the NCFPC limits the scope of the inspections to Type I hoods. NCFPC Section 609 addresses only the hoods requiring inspection due to the associated fire hazard, i.e., Type I hoods. Type II hoods are addressed only in the NCMC for the purpose of design and installation.

Inadvertently, NCFPC Section 609.2.2 omitted an exception that is contained in NCMC Section 507.2.2. This exception states as follows:

507.2.2 Domestic cooking appliances used for commercial purposes. Domestic cooking appliances used for commercial purposes shall be provided with Type I or Type II hoods as required for the types of appliances and processes in accordance with Section 507.2 and 507.2.1.

Exception: *A maximum of two (2) residential ranges (4-burner) installed in dwelling units, churches, schools, day care centers, break areas and similar locations.*

This code section and exception can be enforced by the local fire prevention inspector.

Should there be any question regarding these issues, please review the Mechanical Code Interpretation by Henry M. Webster on December 18, 2002 or feel free to contact Chris Noles at (919) 661-5880 Extension 223.