

## CHAPTER 7

# COMBUSTION AIR

### SECTION 701 GENERAL

**701.1 Scope.** The provisions of this chapter shall govern the requirements for combustion and dilution air for fuel-burning appliances other than gas-fired appliances. The requirements for combustion and dilution air for gas-fired appliances shall be in accordance with the *International Fuel Gas Code*.

**701.2 Combustion and dilution air required.** Every room or space containing fuel-burning appliances shall be provided with combustion and dilution air as required by this code. Combustion and dilution air shall be provided in accordance with Section 702, 703, 704, 705, 706 or 707 or shall be provided by an approved engineered system. Direct vent appliances or equipment that do not draw combustion air from inside of the building are not required to be considered in the determination of the combustion and dilution air requirements. Combustion air requirements shall be determined based on the simultaneous operation of all fuel-burning appliances drawing combustion and dilution air from the room or space.

**701.3 Circulation of air.** The equipment and appliances within every room containing fuel-burning appliances shall be installed so as to allow free circulation of air. Provisions shall be made to allow for the simultaneous operation of mechanical exhaust systems, fireplaces or other equipment and appliances operating in the same room or space from which combustion and dilution air is being drawn. Such provisions shall prevent the operation of such appliances, equipment and systems from affecting the supply of combustion and dilution air.

**701.4 Crawl space and attic space.** For the purposes of this chapter, an opening to a naturally ventilated crawl space or attic space shall be considered equivalent to an opening to the outdoors.

**701.4.1 Crawl space.** Where lower combustion air openings connect with crawl spaces, such spaces shall have unobstructed openings to the outdoors at least twice that required for the combustion air openings. The height of the crawl space shall comply with the requirements of the *International Building Code* and shall be without obstruction to the free flow of air.

**701.4.2 Attic space.** Where combustion air is obtained from an attic area, the attic ventilating openings shall not be subject to ice or snow blockage, and the attic shall have not less than 30 inches (762 mm) vertical clear height at its maximum point. Attic ventilation openings shall be sufficient to provide the required volume of combustion air and the attic ventilation required by the *International Building Code*. The combustion air openings shall be provided with a sleeve of not less than 0.019-inch (0.5 mm) (No. 26 Gage) galvanized steel or other approved material extending from the appliance enclosure to at least 6 inches (152 mm) above the top of the ceiling joists and insulation.

**701.5 Prohibited sources.** Openings and ducts shall not connect appliance enclosures with a space in which the operation of a fan will adversely affect the flow of the combustion air. Combustion air shall not be obtained from a hazardous location, except where the fuel-fired appliances are located within the hazardous location and are installed in accordance with this code. Combustion air shall not be taken from a refrigeration machinery room, except where a refrigerant vapor detector system is installed to automatically shut off the combustion process in the event of refrigerant leakage. Combustion air shall not be obtained from any location below the design flood elevation.

### SECTION 702 INSIDE AIR

**702.1 All air from indoors.** Combustion and dilution air shall be permitted to be obtained entirely from the indoors in buildings that are not of unusually tight construction. In buildings of unusually tight construction, combustion air shall be obtained from the outdoors in accordance with Section 703, 705, 706 or 707.

**702.2 Air from the same room or space.** The room or space containing fuel-burning appliances shall be an unconfined space as defined in Section 202.

**702.3 Air from adjacent spaces.** Where the volume of the room in which the fuel-burning appliances are located does not comply with Section 702.2, additional inside combustion and dilution air shall be obtained by opening the room to adjacent spaces so that the combined volume of all communicating spaces meets the volumetric requirement of Section 702.2. Openings connecting the spaces shall comply with Sections 702.3.1 and 702.3.2.

**702.3.1 Number and location of openings.** Two openings shall be provided, one within 1 foot (305 mm) of the ceiling of the room and one within 1 foot (305 mm) of the floor.

**702.3.2 Size of openings.** The net free area of each opening, calculated in accordance with Section 708, shall be a minimum of 1 square inch per 1,000 Btu/h (2201 mm<sup>2</sup>/kW) of input rating of the fuel-burning appliances drawing combustion and dilution air from the communicating spaces and shall be not less than 100 square inches (64 516 mm<sup>2</sup>).

### SECTION 703 OUTDOOR AIR

**703.1 All air from the outdoors.** Where all combustion and dilution air is to be provided by outdoor air, the required combustion and dilution air shall be obtained by opening the room to the outdoors. Openings connecting the room to the outdoor air shall comply with Sections 703.1.1 through 703.1.4.

**703.1.1 Number and location of openings.** Two openings shall be provided, one within 1 foot (305 mm) of the ceiling of the room and one within 1 foot (305 mm) of the floor.

**703.1.2 Size of direct openings.** The net free area of each direct opening to the outdoors, calculated in accordance with Section 709, shall be a minimum of 1 square inch per 4,000 Btu/h (550 mm<sup>2</sup>/kW) of combined input rating of the fuel-burning appliances drawing combustion and dilution air from the room.

**703.1.3 Size of horizontal openings.** The net free area of each opening, calculated in accordance with Section 709 and connected to the outdoors through a horizontal duct, shall be a minimum of 1 square inch per 2,000 Btu/h (1100 mm<sup>2</sup>/kW) of combined input rating of the fuel-burning appliances drawing combustion and dilution air from the room. The cross-sectional area of the duct shall be equal to or greater than the required size of the opening.

**703.1.4 Size of vertical openings.** The net free area of each opening, calculated in accordance with Section 709 and connected to the outdoors through a vertical duct, shall be a minimum of 1 square inch per 4,000 Btu/h (550 mm<sup>2</sup>/kW) of combined input rating of the fuel-burning appliances drawing combustion and dilution air from the room. The cross-sectional area of the duct shall be equal to or greater than the required size of the opening.

#### SECTION 704 COMBINED USE OF INSIDE AND OUTDOOR AIR (CONDITION 1)

**704.1 Combination of air from inside and outdoors.** This section shall apply only to appliances located in confined spaces in buildings not of unusually tight construction. Where the volumes of rooms and spaces are combined for the purpose of providing indoor combustion air, such rooms and spaces shall communicate through permanent openings in compliance with Sections 702.3.1 and 702.3.2. The required combustion and dilution air shall be obtained by opening the room to the outdoors using a combination of inside and outdoor air, prorated in accordance with Section 704.1.6. The ratio of interior spaces shall comply with Section 704.1.5. The number, location and ratios of openings connecting the space with the outdoor air shall comply with Sections 704.1.1 through 704.1.4.

**704.1.1 Number and location of openings.** At least two openings shall be provided, one within 1 foot (305 mm) of the ceiling of the room and one within 1 foot (305 mm) of the floor.

**704.1.2 Ratio of direct openings.** Where direct openings to the outdoors are provided in accordance with Section 703.1, the ratio of direct openings shall be the sum of the net free areas of both direct openings to the outdoors, divided by the sum of the required areas for both such openings as determined in accordance with Section 703.1.2.

**704.1.3 Ratio of horizontal openings.** Where openings connected to the outdoors through horizontal ducts are provided in accordance with Section 703.1, the ratio of horizontal openings shall be the sum of the net free areas of both

such openings, divided by the sum of the required areas for both such openings as determined in accordance with Section 703.1.3.

**704.1.4 Ratio of vertical openings.** Where openings connected to the outdoors through vertical ducts are provided in accordance with Section 703.1, the ratio of vertical openings shall be the sum of the net free areas of both such openings, divided by the sum of the required areas for both such openings as determined in accordance with Section 703.1.4.

**704.1.5 Ratio of interior spaces.** The ratio of interior spaces shall be the available volume of all communicating spaces, divided by the required volume as determined in accordance with Sections 702.2 and 702.3.

**704.1.6 Prorating of inside and outdoor air.** In spaces that utilize a combination of inside and outdoor air, the sum of the ratios of all direct openings, horizontal openings, vertical openings and interior spaces shall equal or exceed 1.

#### SECTION 705 COMBINED USE OF INSIDE AND OUTDOOR AIR (CONDITION 2)

**705.1 General.** This section shall apply only to appliances located in unconfined spaces in buildings of unusually tight construction. Combustion air supplied by a combined use of indoor and outdoor air shall be supplied through openings and ducts extending to the appliance room or to the vicinity of the appliance.

**705.1.1 Openings and supply ducts.** Openings shall be provided, located and sized in accordance with Sections 702.3.1 and 702.3.2; additionally, there shall be one opening to the outdoors having a free area of at least 1 square inch per 5,000 Btu/h (440 mm<sup>2</sup>/kW) of total input of all appliances in the space.

#### SECTION 706 FORCED COMBUSTION AIR SUPPLY

**706.1 General.** Where all combustion air and dilution air is provided by a mechanical forced-air system, the combustion air and dilution air shall be supplied at the minimum rate of 1 cfm per 2,400 Btu/h [0.00067 m<sup>3</sup>/(s · kW)] of combined input rating of all the fuel-burning appliances served. Each of the appliances served shall be electrically interlocked to the mechanical forced-air system so as to prevent operation of the appliances when the mechanical system is not in operation. Where combustion air and dilution air is provided by the building's mechanical ventilation system, the system shall provide the specified combustion/dilution air rate in addition to the required ventilation air.

#### SECTION 707 DIRECT CONNECTION

**707.1 General.** Fuel-burning appliances that are listed and labeled for direct combustion air connection to the outdoors shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

## SECTION 708 COMBUSTION AIR DUCTS

**708.1 General.** Combustion air ducts shall:

1. Be of galvanized steel complying with Chapter 6 or of equivalent corrosion-resistant material approved for this application.
 

**Exception:** Within dwelling units, unobstructed stud and joist spaces shall not be prohibited from conveying combustion air, provided that not more than one required fireblock is removed.
2. Have a minimum cross-sectional dimension of 3 inches (76 mm).
3. Terminate in an unobstructed space allowing free movement of combustion air to the appliances.
4. Have the same cross-sectional areas as the free area of the openings to which they connect.
5. Serve a single appliance enclosure.
6. Not serve both upper and lower combustion air openings where both such openings are used. The separation between ducts serving upper and lower combustion air openings shall be maintained to the source of combustion air.
7. Not be screened where terminating in an attic space.
8. Not slope downward toward the source of combustion air, where serving the upper required combustion air opening.

## SECTION 709 OPENING OBSTRUCTIONS

**709.1 General.** The required size of openings for combustion and dilution air shall be based on the net free area of each opening. The net free area of an opening shall be that specified by the manufacturer of the opening covering. In the absence of such information, openings covered with metal louvers shall be deemed to have a net free area of 75 percent of the area of the opening, and openings covered with wood louvers shall be deemed to have a net free area of 25 percent of the area of the opening. Louvers and grilles shall be fixed in the open position.

**Exception:** Louvers interlocked with the appliance so that they are proven to be in the full open position prior to main burner ignition and during main burner operation. Means shall be provided to prevent the main burner from igniting if the louvers fail to open during burner startup and to shut down the main burner if the louvers close during operation.

**709.2 Dampened openings.** Where the combustion air openings are provided with volume, smoke or fire dampers, the dampers shall be electrically interlocked with the firing cycle of the appliances served, so as to prevent operation of any appliance that draws combustion and dilution air from the room when any of the dampers are closed. Manually operated dampers shall not be installed in combustion air openings.

## SECTION 710 OPENING LOCATION AND PROTECTION

**710.1 General.** Combustion air openings to the outdoors shall comply with the location and protection provisions of Sections 401.5 and 401.6 applicable to outside air intake openings.

