

2017 Florida Building Code Mechanical VS. 2020 Florida Building Code Mechanical

Chapter 2 Definitions

- 2020 Code added the following new definitions: **Balanced Ventilation, Large-Diameter Ceiling Fan** and **Pollution Control Unit**. The remainder of definitions are essentially the same.

Chapter 3 General Regulations – no changes.

Chapter 4 Ventilation

- 2020 Code Article **403.3.2.1 Outdoor air for dwelling units**. – added exception 2.1 and 2.2
- 2020 Code added Article **403.3.2.4 Ventilating Equipment**.
- 2017 Code Articles **404.1 Enclosed Parking Garages** and **404.2 Minimum Ventilation** are combined into one article in the 2020 code as Article **404.1 Enclosed parking garages**
- 2020 Code Table **403.3.1.1 Minimum Ventilation Rates** – changed or added to the following occupancy classifications:
 - Coin operated laundries – changed area outdoor ventilation rate.
 - Kitchen (cooking) – added occupant density, people outdoor air ventilation rate and area outdoor ventilation rate.
 - Retail Shipping and receiving – added occupant density and people outdoor air ventilation rate and changed area outdoor breathing rate.
 - Gym, stadium, arena (play area) - added occupant density and people outdoor air ventilation rate.
 - Storage – added Refrigerated warehouses/freezers

Chapter 5 Exhaust Systems

- 2017 Code Article **502.16 Repair garages for natural gas and hydrogen fueled vehicles** changed in the 2020 Code to Article **502.16 Repair garages for vehicles fueled by lighter than air fuels**. Article changed in its entirety.
- 2020 Code added Article **504.4.1 Exhaust termination outlet and passageway** regarding clothes dryer exhaust.
- 2020 Code added Article **506.5.2 Pollution control units**.
- 2020 Code Article **507.2.6 Clearances for Type 1 hood**. – added exception 2.
- 2020 Code added Article **510.8.1 Duct cleanout** regarding hazardous exhaust systems.

Chapter 6 Duct Systems

- 2020 Code, Article **601.5 Return air openings** - added exception 3.
- 2017 Code, Article **602.2.1.1 Wiring** (pertaining to plenums) changed as follows:

2017 Code

Combustible electrical wires and cables and optical fiber cables exposed within a plenum shall be listed as having a maximum peak optical density of 0.50 or less, an average optical density of 0.15 or less, and a maximum flame spread distance of 5 feet (1524 mm) or less when tested in accordance with NFPA 262 or shall be installed in metal raceways or metal sheathed cable. Combustible optical fiber and communication raceways exposed within a plenum shall be listed as having a maximum peak optical density of 0.5 or less, an average optical density of 0.15 or less, and a maximum flame spread distance of 5 feet (1524 mm) or less when tested in accordance with ANSI/UL 2024. Only plenum-rated wires and cables shall be installed in plenum-rated raceways. Electrical wires and cables, optical fiber cables and raceways addressed in this section shall be listed and labeled and shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 70.

2020 Code

Combustible electrical wires and cables and optical fiber cables exposed within a plenum shall be listed and labeled as having a peak optical density not greater than 0.50, an average optical density not greater than 0.15, and a flame spread distance not greater than 5 feet (1524 mm) when tested in accordance with NFPA 262 or shall be installed in metal raceways or metal sheathed cable. Combustible optical fiber and communication raceways exposed within a plenum shall be listed and labeled as having a peak optical density not greater than 0.5, an average optical density not greater than 0.15, and a flame spread distance not greater than 5 feet (1524 mm) when tested in accordance with UL 2024. Only plenum-rated wires and cables shall be installed in plenum-rated raceways.

- 2020 Code Article **602.2.1.6 Foam plastic in plenum as interior finish or interior trim** – article changed in its entirety.
- 2020 Code Article **602.2.1.7 Plastic plumbing piping and tubing** – article changed in its entirety.
- 2020 Code added Article **602.2.1.8 Pipe and duct insulation within plenums**.
- 2020 Code Article **604.11 Vapor retarders** – added exception.
- 2020 Code Article **607.4 Access and identification** – article changed in its entirety.

Chapter 7 Combustion Air - no changes

Chapter 8 Chimneys and Vents

- 2020 Code added Article **805.8 Insulation Shield**.

Chapter 9 Specific Appliances, Fireplaces and Solid Fuel-Burning Equipment

- 2020 Code Article **916.1 General** (referring to Pool and Spa Heaters) added an exception.

Chapter 10 Boilers, Water Heaters and Pressure Vessels – no changes

Chapter 11 Refrigeration

- 2017 Code Article **11.5.2 Copper and brass pipe** changed in the 2020 Code to **Article 1107.5.2 Copper, brass and copper-alloy pipe** as follows:

2017 Code

Standard iron-pipe size, copper and red brass (not less than 80-percent copper) pipe shall conform to ASTM B42 and ASTM B43.

2020 Code

Standard iron-pipe size, brass, copper, and copper-alloy (not less than 80-percent copper) pipe shall conform to ASTM B42 and ASTM B43.

Chapter 12 Hydronic Piping

- 2020 Code Article **1208.2 General** (pertaining to Tests) added (3) exceptions.
- 2020 Code added Article **1209.3.5 Cross-linked polyethylene** (PEX) joints. (Pertaining to embedded joints.)

Chapter 13 Fuel Oil Piping and Storage - no changes.

Chapter 14 Solar Systems – no changes.

Chapter 15 Referenced Standards – updated to later effective dates.

Appendices A, and B have not changed.