This guideline is developed by the Tri-Chapter Uniform Code Committee and is intended to enhance regional consistency in application and enforcement of the Building Code. Please verify acceptance of this guideline with your local building department prior to its application.

ISSUE(S):

2016 CMC: Should garage exhaust ducts be considered as Environmental Air or Product-Conveying ducts for a common use garage of a multi-family podium structure? What standards should we use for the termination of exhaust ducts?

PROPOSED GUIDELINE:

The exhaust ducts from a common use garage of a multi-family podium structure should be considered as product-conveying ducts according to the definition of CMC Chapter 2. The termination of garage exhaust ducts is governed by CMC Section 502.2.2 under other product-conveying ducts that shall terminate not less than 10 feet from a property line, 3 feet from exterior wall or roof; 10 feet from openings into the building and 10 feet above adjoining grade.

CODE REFERENCE(S): 2016 California Mechanical Code

CMC Chapter 2 Definitions

Environmental Air Duct. Ducting used for conveying air at temperatures not exceeding 250°F to or from occupied areas of any occupancy through other than heating or air-conditioning systems, such as ventilation for human usage, domestic kitchen range exhaust, bathroom exhaust ducts, and domestic-type clothes dryer exhaust ducts.

Product-Conveying Duct. Ducting used for conveying solid particulates, such as refuse, dust, fumes, and smoke; liquid particulate matter, such as spray residue, mists, and fogs; vapors, such as vapors from flammable or corrosive liquids; noxious and toxic gases; and air at temperatures exceeding 250°F.

CMC 502.0 Termination of Exhaust Ducts.

502.2.1 Environmental Air Ducts. Environmental air duct exhaust shall terminate not less than 3 feet from a property line, 10 feet from a forced air inlet, and 3 feet from openings into the building. Environmental exhaust ducts shall not discharge onto a public walkway.

502.2.2 Product-Conveying Ducts. Ducts conveying explosive or flammable vapors .......

Other product-conveying outlets shall terminate not less than 10 feet from a property line, 3 feet from exterior wall or roof; 10 feet from openings into the building and 10 feet above adjoining grade.