



Planning, Building and
Code Enforcement

M-002 - Building Division Directive

December 10, 2013

Trash/ Linen Chute Access Room Ventilation

REFERENCE: CBC, CMC, ASHRAE

This Directive is intended to clarify the combined intent of the California Building Code (CBC), California Mechanical Code (CMC), California Energy Code (CEC) and ASHRAE Standards for ventilation requirements in rooms designed to provide access to Trash and Linen chutes in multifamily buildings, as interpreted in the City of San José.

Access Rooms are considered to have intermittent but frequent use and shall be classified as Occupiable Space as defined in the CBC and will therefore be required to have mechanical ventilation at a minimum rate as specified in the CEC, CMC or ASHRAE Standard as applicable or as otherwise approved.

The required mechanical ventilation shall incorporate a ducted exhaust and make up air system, a supply and return system or a combination exhaust and supply air system. Rated corridors shall not be used to convey ventilation air to or from access rooms and the mechanical ventilation system ductwork shall not be installed in the trash/linen chute shaft unless specifically approved by the Building Official.

Supply, exhaust and make up air duct systems may be installed in a separate shaft adjacent to the Trash/Linen chute shaft with appropriate protection or shall originate and terminate directly to the exterior in an approved manner.

The mechanical ventilation system or systems shall not compromise the integrity of the fire rating or structural components of the building and the installation shall be in compliance with all applicable sections of the California Building, Fire, Energy and Mechanical Codes.

Mechanical ventilation system design shall be clearly shown on mechanical plans and Building component details such as shaft and rated construction penetrations shall be clearly shown on the Architectural plans. Fire damper and smoke/fire damper information shall be included on equipment schedules as applicable.