

PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL
INTERPRETATION MANUAL



CODE: 2003 IRC

DATE:

CODE REF: M1502.2

4/7/2004

SUBJECT: Dryer Exhaust Duct

Question: Is it required to have a round dryer vent duct because of the statement “minimum diameter” and “minimum size 4 inches in diameter?”

The IRC states the following:

M1501.2 Exhaust duct size. The minimum diameter of the exhaust duct shall be as recommended by the manufacturer and shall be at least the diameter of the appliance outlet and shall be a minimum size of 4 inches in diameter. The size of duct shall not be reduced along its developed length or at the point of termination.

Answer: The code does not prohibit the use of rectangular duct for dryer vent exhaust. Rectangular duct may be used for dryer vent exhaust as long as the interior dimension of the duct is equivalent to diameter of a 4 inch round duct. . Dryer exhaust may transition from round to rectangular to round duct as needed, long as the number of required square inches is maintained through out the entire length of the duct.

Example: The area of a 4” duct pipe equals 12.564 sq. inches. Therefore, the rectangular duct for the dryer exhaust duct should equal 12.564 sq. inches. A rectangular duct with an interior dimension of 3.141 X 4 inches (12.564sq. Inches) would be equivalent to a 4 inch diameter round duct

SIGNATURE: *Lonnie Erwin,*
Chief Plumbing and Mechanical Inspector
City of Dallas