

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-03-18

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, TEXAS REPEALING THE INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE (2015 EDITION) AND REPLACING IT WITH THE ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE (2021 EDITION) WITH LOCAL AMENDMENTS; PROVIDING A PENALTY OF FINE NOT TO EXCEED TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,000); PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE (WITH AN EXCEPTION FOR PENDING PROSECUTIONS); AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City has previously adopted the International Mechanical Code 2015 edition with local amendments; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Lancaster, Texas, has determined that it is in the best interest of the city to update the city's Mechanical Code by adopting the 2021 edition of the International Mechanical Code, with local North Central Texas Council of Government amendments and city amendments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That Sections 6.04.251 and 6.04.252, of the Code of Ordinances be hereby repealed in their entirety (subject to pending prosecutions as noted in Section 2, *infra*) and replaced in their entirety with the International Mechanical Code 2021 Edition, as amended, with local amendments which shall read as follows:

§ 6.04.251 Adoption.

There is hereby adopted as the Mechanical Code for the City for the purpose of regulating and governing the design, construction, quality of materials, erection, installation, alteration, repair, location, relocation, replacement, addition to, use or maintenance of mechanical systems in the City the International Mechanical Code, 2021 edition, subject to the exceptions and amendments adopted by the City, and the same are incorporated by reference herein as if fully copied. One copy of each such code, together with the exceptions and amendments thereto, shall be kept at all times in the office of the City Secretary.

§ 6.04.252 Exceptions and amendments.

The International Mechanical Code, 2021 edition, adopted in this article shall be subject to the exceptions and amendments which are as follows:

The following sections, paragraphs, and sentences of the *2021 International Mechanical Code (IMC)* are hereby amended as follows: Standard type is text from the IMC. Underlined type is text inserted. ~~Lined through type is deleted text from the IMC.~~ A triple asterisk identifies a new or revised amendment of the 2021 edition of the code.

****Section 101.1 Title, is amended as follows:**

101.1 Title.

These regulations shall be known as the **Fuel Gas Code of Lancaster, Texas**, hereinafter referred to as "this code."

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*****Section 102.8; change to read as follows:**

102.8 Referenced Codes and Standards. The codes and standards referenced herein shall be those that are listed in Chapter 15 and such codes, when specifically adopted, and standards shall be considered part of the requirements of this code to the prescribed extent of each such reference. Where differences occur between provisions of this code and the referenced standards, the provisions of this code shall apply. Whenever amendments have been adopted to the referenced codes and standards, each reference to said code and standard shall be considered to reference the adopted amendments. Any reference to NFPA 70 shall mean the National Electrical Code as adopted.

****Section 113 Means of Appeal, is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:**

Any appeal of orders, decisions or determinations made by the building official relative to the application and interpretation of this code shall be heard by the City's Property Standards and Appeals Board as provided for by the City's Code of Ordinances.

****Section 114 Board of Appeal, is deleted in its entirety:**

****Section 115 Violations, is amended by replacing Section 115.2, 115.3, and 115.4 with the following:**

115.2 Notice of Violation.

The *code official* may, but is not required to, serve a notice of violation or order upon the person responsible for the erection, construction, *alteration*, extension, *repair*, moving, removal, demolition or occupancy of a building or structure in violation of the provisions of this code, or in violation of a *permit* or certificated issued under the provisions of this code. Such notice may direct the discontinuance of the illegal action or condition and the abatement of the violation.

115.3 Prosecution of violation.

The *code official*, any code enforcement officer, or any law enforcement official of the City may issue a citation regarding any violation of this code, regardless of whether a notice has been previously issued. Any of these persons may also request the legal counsel of the jurisdiction to institute an appropriate proceeding at law or in equity to restrain, correct, or abate such violation, or to require the removal or termination of the unlawful occupancy of the building or structure in violation of the provisions of this code or of the order or direction made pursuant thereto.

115.4 Violation penalties.

[This section deleted in its entirety]

****Section 306.5; change to read as follows:**

306.5 Equipment and Appliances on Roofs or Elevated Structures. Where *equipment* requiring *access* or appliances are located on an elevated structure or the roof of a building such that personnel will have to climb higher than 16 feet (4877 mm) above grade to access, an interior or exterior means of access shall be provided. Exterior ladders providing roof access need not extend closer than 12 feet (2438 mm) to the finish grade or floor level below and shall extend to the equipment and appliances' level service space. Such access shall . . . *{bulk of section to read the same}* . . . on roofs having a slope greater than four units vertical in 12 units horizontal (33-percent slope).
... *{remainder of text unchanged}*.

****Section 306.5.1; change to read as follows:**

306.5.1 Sloped Roofs. Where appliances, *equipment*, fans or other components that require service are installed on a roof having a slope of three units vertical in 12 units horizontal (25-percent slope) or greater and having an edge more than 30 inches (762 mm) above grade at such edge, a catwalk at least 16 inches in width with substantial cleats spaced not more than 16 inches apart shall be provided from the roof access to a level platform at the appliance. The level platform shall be provided on each side of the appliance to which *access* is required for service, repair or maintenance. The platform shall be not less than 30 inches (762 mm) in any dimension and shall be provided with guards. The guards shall extend not less than 42 inches (1067 mm) above the platform, shall be constructed so as to prevent the passage of a 21-inch-diameter (533 mm) sphere and shall comply with the loading requirements for guards specified in the *International Building Code*...{remainder of text unchanged}.

****Section 501.3; add an exception to read as follows:**

501.3 Exhaust Discharge. The air removed by every mechanical exhaust system shall be discharged outdoors at a point where it will not cause a public nuisance and not less than the distances specified in Section 501.3.1. The air shall be discharged to a location from which it cannot again be readily drawn in by a ventilating system. Air shall not be exhausted into an attic, crawl space, or be directed onto walkways.

Exceptions:

1. Whole-house ventilation-type attic fans shall be permitted to discharge into the attic space of dwelling units having private attics.
2. Commercial cooking recirculating systems.
3. Where installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and where mechanical or natural ventilation is otherwise provided in accordance with Chapter 4, listed and labeled domestic ductless range hoods shall not be required to discharge to the outdoors.
4. Toilet room exhaust ducts may terminate in a warehouse or shop area when infiltration of outside air is present.

SECTION 2. Except as expressly amended herein; Chapter 6, Section 4, Division 6 of the Code of Ordinances of Lancaster, Texas, as amended, shall remain in full force and effect, save and except as amended by this ordinance. The repeal of the International Mechanical Code (2015 ed.) shall not affect any prosecution of any citation or violation open as of the effective date of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. If any article, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision of this ordinance or the Code of Ordinances be adjudged invalid or held unconstitutional for any reason, such judgment or holding shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole or any part or provision thereof, or of the Code of Ordinances, other than the part so declared to be invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 4. Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this ordinance or the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lancaster, Texas, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction in the municipal court of the City of Lancaster, Texas, shall be subject to a fine not to exceed the sum of Two Thousand (\$2,000.00) dollars for each offense, and each and every day such offense shall continue shall be deemed to constitute a separate offense.

SECTION 5. This ordinance shall take effect immediately the date of passage and is provided by law.

DULY PASSED and approved by the City Council of the City of Lancaster, Texas, on this the 24th day of March, 2025.

ATTEST:



Sorangel O. Arenas, City Secretary

APPROVED:



Clyde C. Hairston, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



David T. Ritter, City Attorney

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