

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENT FORM FOR PROPOSED CODE CHANGES

(This form must be submitted electronically)

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**1346, IMC #5**

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### **Proposed Code Change - Language**

Minnesota State Mechanical Code, section 404.3 occupied spaces accessory to public garages. Connecting offices, waiting rooms, ticket booths, elevator lobbies, and similar uses that are accessory to a public garage shall be maintained at a positive pressure and shall be provided with ventilation in accordance with the Ventilation Rate Procedure, Section 6.2 of ASHRAE 62.1-2004, or the Indoor Air Quality Procedure Section 6.3 of ASHRAE 62.1-2004.

### **Proposed Code Change – Need and Reason**

We need to include elevator lobbies that are adjacent to parking garages because elevator lobbies are a fire rated part of the building and without a separate supply duct, the elevator shaft is at a negative pressure with the adjacent garage area. This is because of the natural “chimney effect” caused by air rising through the elevator shaft. Providing a supply air duct directly to the elevator shaft helps eliminate and enables the building owner to control the negative pressure. This is the intent of the code; to include elevator lobbies and adding the words “elevator lobbies” would eliminate any disagreement.

### **Proposed Code Change – Cost/Benefit Analysis**

There would be the cost of adding a supply duct to the elevator lobby opposed to not having a supply duct. Most builders do consider elevator lobbies to be a “similar use” and provide the supply air duct as required in Section 6.2 (referenced above). In several construction projects where this arises, the architect or the mechanical contractor often try to not consider elevator lobbies as “similar uses” causing much of the inspectors’ and building officials time to be spent arguing this matter. They often use other terms such as calling the elevator lobby an “adjacent area” or some other such term and say ventilation is not required.

**Other Factors to Consider Related to Proposed Code Change**

1. Is this proposed code change meant to:

XX - change language contained in a published code book? If so, list section(s).  
Section 404.3 Minnesota State Mechanical Code

change language contained in an existing amendment in Minnesota Rule? If so, list Rule part(s).

delete language contained in a published code book? If so, list section(s).

delete language contained in an existing amendment in Minnesota Rule? If so, list Rule part(s).

XX neither; this language will be new language, not found in the code book or in Minnesota Rule.

2. Is this proposed code change required by a Minnesota Statute or new legislation? If so, please provide the citation to the Statute or legislation.

No

3. Will this proposed code change impact other sections of a published code book or of an amendment in Minnesota Rule? If so, please list the affected sections or rule parts.

No

4. Will this proposed code change impact other parts of the Minnesota State Building Code? If so, please list the affected parts of the Minnesota State Building Code.

No

5. Who are the parties affected or segments of industry affected by this proposed code change?

Mechanical Engineers, Plan Review Departments,

6. Can you think of other means or methods to achieve the purpose of the proposed code change? If so, please explain what they are and why your proposed change is the preferred method or means to achieve the desired result.

No

7. Are you aware of any federal requirement or regulation related to this proposed code change? If so, please list the regulation or requirement.

No