



NATURAL VENTILATION REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW OR EXISTING AUTO REPAIR ESTABLISHMENTS

1.0 PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to establish the requirements for using unobstructed openings in the exterior of building for the purpose of using a gravity fresh air ventilation system in lieu of mechanical ventilation system for new or existing auto repair establishments.

Mechanical ventilation systems are required by Section 91.0311.5. However, an alternate method utilizing natural gravity ventilation is permitted per section 91.1202.2.6.

2.0 REQUIREMENTS:

2.1 Location:

1. The total area of natural ventilation shall be provided by equally sized unobstructed openings providing natural ventilation, which are open directly to the exterior of the building, and spaced not more than 10 feet apart on at least one side of the building.
2. No vehicle bay shall be located more than 20 feet from any wall containing unobstructed openings providing natural ventilation.
3. The bottom of unobstructed openings shall be located not more than 18 inches above the floor.

2.2 SIZE:

1. When vehicle engines are in operation, garage doors shall remain open. No vehicle shall be located at a distance from the garage door that is more than a horizontal distance equal to the height of the garage door.
2. When vehicles are not in operation, one square inch of unobstructed openings providing ventilation per 10 square feet of floor area shall be provided in at least one exterior wall.

2.3 ALLOWABLE USES

1. The provisions shall not apply to spray booths and rooms where open flame welding is performed.

2. Other code required ventilation for areas such as offices, restrooms and store rooms shall be provided in addition to the natural ventilation described in this memorandum.

3. Rooms containing Class I, II or IIIA liquids shall be provided with ventilation systems conforming to the Chapter 9 of the Building Code, separate from natural ventilation provided for the automotive repair work areas specified above.