

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	70693	Agenda Number	56.
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Meeting Date:	6/8/2017	Department:	Development Services
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Subject

Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance adopting the 2015 Uniform Mechanical Code with specific amendments, repealing the Solar Energy Code (Chapter 25-12, Article 8), amending requirements for the Electric Board, and amending the jurisdiction and name of the Mechanical, Plumbing, and Solar Board.

Amount and Source of Funding

There is no anticipated fiscal impact.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	June 6, 2013 - Council adopted the 2012 Uniform Mechanical Code with local amendments.
For More Information:	Jose Roig, 974-9754; Carl Wren, 974-7254
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	October 4, 2016 – Unanimously approved by the Mechanical Plumbing & Solar Board on a 8-0 vote.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

The proposed ordinance adopts the 2015 version of the Uniform Mechanical Code and amends it to make certain changes. Changes include: equipment access, electrical connections, condensate termination, environmental duct termination, smoke control systems, and duct and transfer openings.

Key changes in the published code include:

- New requirements for condensate, appliances on sloped roofs, and clearances for combustible construction.
- New requirements for ventilation as it concerns parking garages.
- New requirements for exhaust as it concerns clothes dryers.
- New requirements for appliances, refrigeration, and hydronic system.

Highlights for the local amendments include:

- Section 301.4 Electrical Connections – uses language from Solar Code.

- Section 310.10 Standards for Air Conditioning Condensate Recovery Systems – applies to new development and implements City Council direction related to Water Conservation Innovative Water Strategies.
- Tables 401.3.1 and 403.7 – provides American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) standards.
- Section 504.4.4.2.1.1 Length of Dryer Ducts – set maximum to 35 feet to meet current code.
- Section 608.3.1 Shutdown Control of Fan-Powered Terminal Units by the Fire Alarm System – clarifies requirements.
- Section 1015 Efficiency Standards for Steam Boilers – related to water conservation goals.
- Section 1123 Standards for Cooling Towers – related to water conservation goals.

The proposed ordinance also repeals the Solar Energy Code. Staff recommends repealing the Solar Energy Code because staff approves solar installations consistent with the requirements in the National Electric Code. Staff also recommends amending the jurisdiction and name of the Mechanical, Plumbing, and Solar Board to remove references to the Solar Energy Code.