City of Austin
Planning Development Review Department

To: All Internal and External Stakeholders
From: Dan McNabb Deputy Building Official, PDRD
Date: March 10th, 2014
File: Code Interpretation Manual

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 2013-0001

TITLE: Registers for Balancing Dampers


SECTION: 2012 IMC 603.18, 2012 UMC E502.3

PURPOSE: The 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) refers the reader to this section for definitive means of air balancing. We are determining if supply registers meet this function.

QUESTIONS: Are supply registers considered to meet the requirement for “volume dampers or other means of supply air adjustment” in section 603.18 of the 2012 IMC (excluding units that serve one space)?

ANSWER: No. It is unlikely that register dampers alone can adequately ensure that the air distribution system is properly balanced to supply minimum air rates for the building. Supply air registers are better suited for fine tuning the comfort level.

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