




**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

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**INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 2013-0001**

**TITLE:** Registers for Balancing Dampers  
**CODE EDITION:** 2012 Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC), 2012 International Mechanical Code (IMC), 2012 International Energy Conservation Code  
**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.

  
Approved By: Dan McNabb Deputy Building Official, PDRD

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