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**Max Fuller**  
Deputy Commissioner

**Ray Perry**  
Deputy Secretary

April 6, 2021

Brian Tharpe  
Knight's Mechanical, LLC  
4250 Leitchfield Rd.  
Cecilia, KY 42724  
*via Email*

**Re: Alternative methods of clothes dryer exhaust duct installation**

Mr. Tharpe:

This letter is in response to your March 26, 2021 request for approval of “an alternative method of installing dryer exhaust vents that would eliminate the penetration of the dryer exhaust ducts with screws.” Specifically, you have requested “that the round metallic ducts be joined with UL listed foil tape covered with a UL listed mastic adhesive.” You also note that the duct would “be supported at intervals not to exceed 4 feet” in order to “create a joint that has a smooth interior surface reducing the risk of lint being captured with the exhaust duct while also creating a joint that is strong enough to endure the rigors associated with cleaning and maintenance of the exhaust duct.”

In accordance with R104.11, your request for approval of an alternative method of installing clothes dryer exhaust is granted. The alternative method described in your request both seals and fastens the duct in a manner that complies with the intent of the 2018 Kentucky Residential Code and 2015 International Residential Code and eliminates the possibility of hastened lint accumulation within the duct due to mechanical fasteners penetrating the duct.

Sincerely,

*David Moore*

David Moore, Acting Director  
Division of HVAC

*Gary Feck*

Gary Feck, Director  
Division of Building Code Enforcement



# **Knight's Mechanical**

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March 26, 2021

The 2015 International Residential Code currently requires the crimp joints for round metallic ducts to have a contact lap of not less than 1 inch and to be mechanically fastened by means of not less than three-metal screws or rivets equally spaced around the joint. The screws used to mechanically fasten the duct together are not allowed to penetrate the duct more than 1/8 inch. It is my opinion that any penetration of the dryer exhaust ducts with screws will inevitably create a point where the lint exhausted by the dryer will be caught and create a build-up that will greatly increase the risk of fire within the exhaust duct.

I am requesting an alternative method of installing dryer exhaust ducts that would eliminate the penetration of the dryer exhaust ducts with screws. I am requesting that the round metallic ducts be joined with UL listed foil tape covered with a UL listed mastic adhesive. The dryer exhaust duct would also be required to be supported at intervals not to exceed 4 feet. This would create a joint that has a smooth interior surface reducing the risk of lint being captured with the exhaust duct while also creating a joint that is strong enough to endure the rigors associated with cleaning and maintenance of the exhaust duct. I believe this installation would meet the intention of the code in creating a safe and strong joint while at the same time reducing the risk associated with lint being built up within the exhaust duct.

Thank you for your consideration and time associated with reviewing this request.

Respectfully submitted,

**Brian Tharpe**  
**Knight's Mechanical, LLC**  
**Commercial Plumbing Supervisor**

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