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FORMAL INTERPRETATION 99-05

DOCUMENT: 2007 / 2002 Kentucky Residential Code (KRC)
1995 CABO One and Two Family Dwelling Code
2006 / 2000 International Mechanical Code (IMC)
1993 BOCA/National Mechanical Code (BNMC)

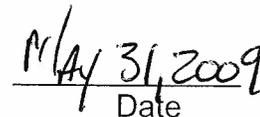
SUBJECT: Bathroom exhaust termination
Section 303.3 – 2007 and 2002 KRC
Section 303.3 – 1995 CABO
Section 501.2 – 2006 and 2000 IMC
Section M-1603 & 1604 – 1993 BNMC

QUESTION: Can a bathroom exhaust terminate in a ventilated crawl space, attic space or to an eave soffit vent?

ANSWER: No.

COMMENTARY: Both codes referenced require mechanically ventilated bathrooms to be exhausted directly to the outdoors. While the air within ventilated attics and crawl spaces is not tempered air and in most cases is the same temperature as the outdoor air, it is not considered to be outdoors because those spaces are still within the exterior building envelope. In order of a vent to be considered as discharging to the outdoors the vent duct must penetrate the outermost exterior membrane of the building. Bathroom exhaust ducts that are run horizontally in the ceiling space and then turned down to a soffit vent leave an opportunity for some moisture to be pulled back into the attic space.


George E. Mann
Deputy Commissioner


Date

Originated January 1999
Revised May 2009