



# Building Standards and Codes

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TB-1003-RCNYS

## TECHNICAL BULLETIN

**Code Effective Date:** October 3, 2016

**Source Document:** 19NYCRR 1240 - Energy Code of New York State-2016 (ECNYS)  
19NYCRR 1220 - Residential Code of New York State-2016 (RCNYS)

**Topic** Section(s) R403.6 (ECNYS), (1103.6-RCNYS)-Mechanical Ventilation (Mandatory)  
Section M1507 - Whole House Mechanical Ventilation (RCNYS)

This document is to clarify the issue of the whole house mechanical ventilation as required by the 2016 Energy Code of New York State and Also the 2016 Uniform Code of New York State (Residential Code). The 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) requires whole house ventilation systems to be installed in new homes. The design parameters for Whole House Mechanical Ventilation are contained in the 2015 International Residential Code (IRC), Section M1507, and Mechanical Ventilation.

The IRC requires a whole house mechanical ventilation system to exhaust excessive moisture and to provide adequate fresh air for building occupants. The intake of outdoor air is a requirement of the code, See IRC Section M1507.3.3. The code does not specify a specific type of mechanical ventilation system. However, the code requirements for whole house ventilation systems requires that the ventilation system be designed to specified parameters (See 2015 IRC M1507.3) to meet the code criteria. Therefore, any system meeting all requirements of the code(s) may be utilized.

For purposes of clarification, the 2016 Supplement to the New York State Energy Conservation Construction Code (August 2016) defines Building System as follows: the term *"building system means a combination of central or terminal equipment or components or controls, accessories interconnecting means and terminal devices by which energy is transformed so as to perform a specific function, such a heating, ventilation and air conditioning, service water heating or illumination.*

All bathroom and kitchen fans are required to be vented to the exterior, see IRC Section M1501. Bathroom and kitchen fans are separate components of mandatory ventilation, serving to remove excessive moisture and contaminants. These two exhaust fan locations, are required in addition to whole house ventilation systems, *but may serve as a component of the whole house ventilation systems*. In a typical ventilation application, continuous run fans(s) or intermittent run fans(s) may be used as part of the system., however, the introduction of outside air is specifically required by the code (see 2015 International Residential Code, (IRC) Section M1507.3.3).

Required supplied airflow rates of outdoor air are found in the IRC Table M1507.3.3 (1). The code is silent on the method of supply of outdoor air, therefore any *quantifiable* method to provide outdoor air may be utilized.

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