

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-36-99

July 19, 1999

Question: “Is it the intent of the Connecticut Building Code to require a hazardous exhaust system in a laboratory with an NFPA 45 mandated ventilation system in operation if a flammable vapor, gas, fume, mist or dust is present in concentrations of 25% or less of the lower flammability limit (LFL) of the substance for the expected room temperature?”

Answer: No. Section 510.2, of the 1996 International Mechanical Code portion of the 1999 State Building Code, requires a hazardous exhaust system when any of the following conditions exist:

1. A flammable vapor, gas, fume, mist or dust is present in concentrations exceeding 25 percent of the lower flammability limit of the substance for the expected room temperature.
2. A vapor, gas, fume, mist or dust with a health-hazard rating of 4 is present in any concentration.
3. A vapor, gas, fume, mist or dust with a health hazard rating of 1, 2 or 3 is present in concentration exceeding 1 percent of the median lethal concentration of the substance for acute inhalation toxicity.

Note: The determination for the lower flammability limit for compliance with Section 510.2, No. 1, is measured below the fume hood.