

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-13-12

May 31, 2012

The following is in response to your request for formal interpretation dated May 24, 2012.

Scenario:

Section R303.4.1, of the 2003 International Residential Code portion of the 2005 State Building Code (IRC), has a general requirement that hazardous or noxious contaminants, such as vents, chimneys, plumbing vents, etc., are to be a minimum of 10 feet from gravity outdoor air intake openings (windows/doors). The 2003 International Residential Code, Section M1301.1, sends you to the 2003 International Mechanical Code when the installation of equipment is not addressed in the IRC (such as a generator). Section 915 of the 2003 International Mechanical Code portion of the 2005 State Building Code refers you to NFPA 37 and the manufacturer's installation instructions for the installation of stationary combustion engines and gas turbines.

Question:

Could the building official allow generators to be installed 5 feet from openings within exterior walls in accordance with NFPA 37 and the manufacturer's installation instructions in lieu of the general requirements contained within Section R303.4.1, of the 2003 International Residential Code portion of the 2005 State Building Code?

Answer:

Yes. While R303.4.1 provides a generally applied separation distance, Section M1301.1 identifies the 2003 International Mechanical Code as the governing code for "... systems and equipment not addressed by this code ...", Section 915, of the 2003 International Mechanical Code, states that NFPA 37 and the manufacturer's instructions will govern the installation.