



Technical Bulletin

Bulletin: TB-12-003
Date: March 23, 2012
By: Jim Zicaro, CBO
Subject: Fireplace Gasketed Door Requirements

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is to address the concern over fireplace gasketed door requirements within the 2009 Residential and Energy Codes.

BACKGROUND

The 2009 editions of the *International Residential Code* and the *International Energy Code* require that fireplaces are equipped with gasketed doors to prevent air leakage into conditioned space areas.

Manufacturers and other parties have expressed fire safety concerns, related to the use of tightly sealed doors as required by the Codes. These concerns were expressed through a letter posted by the ICC Evaluation Service and subsequently lead to a hearing in February of this year to address this concern.

Subsequently, the requirement for gasketed doors on fireplaces has been removed from the 2012 Codes. However, that section has been amended to require "tight fitting flue dampers".

CODE SECTIONS

§ N1102.4.3 Fireplaces; 2009 *International Residential Code*

§ 402.4.3 Fireplaces, 2009 *International Energy Conservation Code*



DETERMINATION

Due to the concerns expressed by the industry and later confirmed by Committee and Staff members of the International Code Council, The City of Fort Worth will no longer require that gasketed doors be placed over fireplace openings. This applies to the new and altered fireplace installations.

However, in order to meet the intent of the energy provisions of the City of Fort Worth Residential Code and Energy Code, we will require that fireplaces are equipped with tight fitting flue dampers. In the absence of a definition of what constitutes "tight fitting", we will acknowledge that the passing of a required blower door test as outlined in section N1102.4.2.1 of the *International Residential Code* shall be deemed as evidence that the flue is tight fitting.