

December 26, 2007

Re: Kitchen Hood registration/installation

Dear Contractor:

The office of Texas Department of License and Regulations (TDLR) has informed us that the installation of exhaust and make-up air ducts and fans associated with kitchen hoods must be performed by a licensed HVAC contractor. As such, this city must re-evaluate our current process for kitchen hood permits.

Currently, a commercial kitchen hood and its associated fans and ducts are allowed to be installed by a registered hood contractor. Registration is based upon appropriate knowledge as evaluated by the Chief Mechanical Inspector. There is no license currently required. This registration can be revoked by the Chief if repeated offenses occur.

While the State Law does not regulate the kitchen hood, under the information provided, the hood contractor can no longer install the associated ducts and fans.

Our options would be as follows:

1. Continue the current hood contractor registration, but limit the allowable work to just the hood. The duct and fans would have to be permitted under an HVAC license. Registered HVAC contractors would not be permitted to obtain hood permits unless they also register as a hood contractor. This is allowable under State law.
2. Discontinue the hood contractor registration. All HVAC contractors, and only HVAC contractors, would be allowed to obtain a permit for the hood along with the fans and duct.
3. Grandfather existing hood contractor registration, but allow no new applications to be approved. The contractor program would move toward non-existence as current hood contractors leave the industry.

Staff's current consideration is that hood installation may require a specific knowledge that is not directly addressed by an HVAC license. And, although only HVAC contractors may obtain permits for the ducts and fans, such contractors may choose to use the hood contractor's expertise on actual installation. However, we are looking for guidance on this issue.

This item will be placed on the January 10 Construction Board meeting for board review and recommendation. Any interested contractors may attend the meeting at 2:00 p.m. in the Development Department conference room or you may respond in writing to Tommy Patterson, Chief Mechanical Inspector, Department of Planning and Development, 1000 Throckmorton, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.

Compliance with the new directive will require computer changes. As such, the effective date of implementation cannot be determined as yet. A new letter explaining the chosen option with a proposed implementation date will be distributed. This issue will also be posted on our departmental web page.

Sincerely,

Al Godwin, CBO
Building Official