



MABCD CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER

Issue 57—February 2026

<https://www.sedgwickcounty.org/mabcd/mabcd-newsletter/>

Chris Nordick - Editor

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Administration -

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Special points of interest

- 2026 NEC Code Review.
- 2024 IFC Adopted
- Appliances installed within Pits.
- Advisory Board calendar.

Electrical Division -

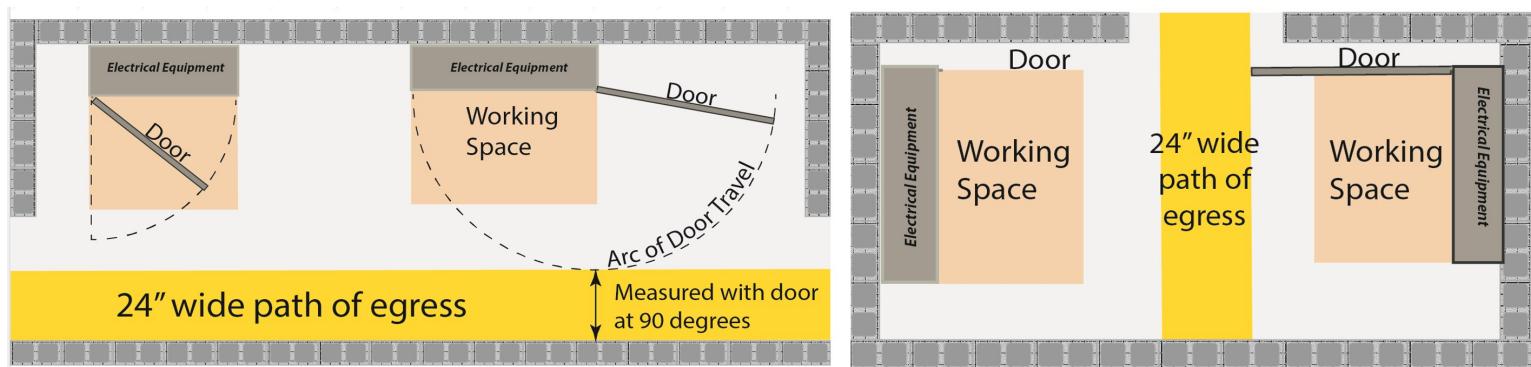
Please visit our website for more information: [Electrical, Elevator, & Alarm Division](#)

2026 National Electrical Code Review

Part 2 - 110.26 Spaces About Electrical Equipment / (A) Working Space / (1) Depth of Working Space.

The Code now requires the following:

- The 24-inch egress path must be maintained regardless of:
- The door's position
- Whether the door is removable
- If the door can be opened greater than 90 degrees
- Equipment doors must be considered for potential obstructions to access or egress, ensuring safety.



110.26(A)(1) Spaces About Electrical Equipment / (A) Working Space / (1) Depth of Working Space

The **depth of the working space requirements was revised** to better distinguish between exposed live parts and enclosed ones, and to clarify how the measurements are taken.

Relocates 110.26(A)(1)(b) to parent section 110.26(A), applying reduced working space to all dimensions (depth, width, height).

Applicable to systems operating at ≤ 30 volts RMS, 42 volts peak, or 60 volts dc with special permission.

The revision clarifies that the depth measurement is taken from the front or the opening of the enclosure when the parts are enclosed. Previous editions only mentioned that the measurement was taken from the enclosure.

Table 110.26(A)(1), Working Spaces, now includes "dc."

Mechanical Division -

Please visit our website for more information: [Mechanical Division](#)

2024 (IMC) International Mechanical Code Section 303.7

303.7 Pit locations.

Appliances installed in pits or excavations shall not come in direct contact with the surrounding soil and shall be installed not less than 3 inches (76 mm) above the pit floor. The sides of the pit or excavation shall be held back not less than 12 inches (305 mm) from the *appliance*. Where the depth exceeds 12 inches (305 mm) below adjoining grade, the walls of the pit or excavation shall be lined with concrete or masonry. Such concrete or masonry shall extend not less than 4 inches (102 mm) above adjoining grade and shall have sufficient lateral load-bearing capacity to resist collapse. Excavation on the control side of the *appliance* shall extend not less than 30 inches (762 mm) horizontally. The *appliance* shall be protected from flooding in an *approved* manner.

Placing an appliance such as a fuel-fired furnace, boiler or water heater in a pit results in risks from contact with water and soil. Such pits were typical where appliances were installed in shallow crawl spaces or where floor furnaces were installed over shallow crawl spaces. Such installations are uncommon today. Where installed in a depression, appliances could be damaged by corrosion or a malfunction could be caused by blockage of an opening caused by entry of soil. Because a depression could hold water, protection from flooding is also necessary.



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Mechanical Division -

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2024 (IMC) International Mechanical Code Section 304.3

304.3 Elevation of ignition source.

Equipment and appliances having an ignition source and located in hazardous locations and public garages, private garages, repair garages, automotive motor fuel-dispensing facilities and parking garages shall be elevated such that the source of ignition is not less than 18 inches (457 mm) above the floor surface on which the equipment or appliance rests. For the purpose of this section, rooms or spaces that are not part of the living space of a dwelling unit and that communicate directly with a private garage through openings shall be considered to be part of the private garage.

Exception: Elevation of the ignition source is not required for appliances that are *listed* as flammable vapor ignition resistant.

To reduce the fire/explosion hazard in hazardous areas, the potential sources of ignition must be elevated above the surface supporting the equipment or appliance. It is not the intent to measure the elevation from the surface of a dedicated appliance stand or other structure built to support the appliance where that stand or structure does not afford room for the storage of flammable liquids. Some flammable and combustible liquids typically associated with hazardous locations give off vapors that are more dense than air and tend to collect near the floor. The 18-inch (457 mm) height requirement is intended to reduce the possibility of fire or explosion by keeping ignition sources elevated above the anticipated level of accumulated vapors. The 18-inch (457 mm) value is a minimum requirement and must be increased where required by the manufacturer's installation instructions. This section will effectively prohibit the installation of most furnaces, boilers, space heaters, clothes dryers and water heaters directly on the floor of residential garages and other occupancies where flammable or combustible vapors might be present.

The accumulation of flammable vapors more than 18 inches (457 mm) deep is unlikely in most ventilated locations; therefore, maintaining all possible sources of ignition at least 18 inches (457 mm) above the floor will substantially reduce the risk of explosion and fire.

In the context of this section, a source of ignition could be a pilot flame, burner, burner igniter or electrical component capable of producing a spark. The term "ignition source" is defined and can be interpreted as meaning an intentional source of ignition, such as for a burner, or an unintentional source of ignition for any flammable vapors that may be present.

An appliance installed in a closet or room that is accessible only from the garage must be considered as part of the garage for application of this section. Even though the room may be separated from the garage by walls and a door, there is no practical means of making the door vapor-tight or any assurance that the door will remain closed during normal use. An appliance room that is accessed only from the outdoors or from the living space would not be considered part of the garage. Rooms such as utility rooms, "mud rooms" or laundry rooms that communicate both with the garage and the living space are considered to be part of the living space and not part of the garage.

The exception acknowledges and allows the installation of appliances that are flammable vapor ignition resistant (FVIR) without elevation above the garage floor. FVIR-type appliances are designed to not ignite flammable vapors outside of the appliance combustion chamber. Oil, solid-fuel and electric FVIR appliances are not known by the author to exist.

Plans Examiners-

2024 International Fire Code

The Wichita Fire Department has adopted 2024 Edition of the International Fire Code.

The effective date for the above code will be Sunday February 1 of this year.

Any project submitted on Friday January 30 of this year or before will be reviewed under the 2018 Edition of the International Fire Code. Any project submitted on Monday February 2 of this year and beyond will be reviewed under 2024 Edition of the International Fire Code.

You will need contact the Wichita Fire Department to get a copy of the amendments to the 2024 Edition of the International Fire Code. Their phone number is (316) 268-4441.

MABCD Advisory Boards - Calendar

- [Board of Building Code Standards and Appeals \(BCSA\)](#)
- [Board of Electrical Appeals \(BEA\)](#)
- [Board of Appeals of Refrigeration, Air Conditioning, Warm Air Heating, and Boiler](#)
- [Board of Appeals of Plumbers and Gas Fitters](#)

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <i>MABCD BCSA Board Meeting</i>	3	4	5 <i>MABCD Mechanical Board Meeting</i>	6	7
8	9	10 <i>MABCD Electrical Board Meeting</i>	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 <i>MABCD Plumbing Board Meeting</i>	26	27	28