



**CLARIFICATION MEMO**  
Community Development Department  
Building Division

**Date:** October 30, 2008

**From:** Kimberley Mack, AIA  
Senior Plans Examiner  
City of Helena Building Division

**Subject:** **International Mechanical Code – Section 506**  
**COMMERCIAL KITCHEN HOOD VENTILATION**  
**SYSTEM DUCTS AND EXHAUST EQUIPMENT**  
**Specifically 506.3.2.5**  
**Grease Duct Test**

This memo is to clarify the intent and process of “Grease Duct Testing”.

The intent of the grease duct test is to insure that all contaminants entering the duct will be effectively evacuated without the possibility of leaking into the structure producing a potential fire hazard or building damage.

**Section 506.3.2.5 states:**

**“Prior to the use or concealment of any portion of a grease duct system, a leakage test shall be performed in the presence of the code official. Ducts shall be considered to be concealed where installed in shafts or covered by coatings or wraps that prevent the ductwork from being visually inspected on all sides. The permit holder shall be responsible to provide the necessary equipment and perform the grease duct leakage test. A light test or an approved equivalent test method shall be performed to determine that all welded and brazed joints are liquid tight. A light test shall be performed by passing a lamp having a power rating of not less than 100 watts through the entire section of ductwork to be tested. The lamp shall be open so as to emit light equally in all directions perpendicular to the duct walls.”**

**“A test shall be performed for the entire duct system, including the duct to hood connection. The ductwork shall be permitted to be tested in sections, provided that every joint is tested.”**

The contractor shall contact the Building Division to schedule inspections as stated above. Failure to do so may require the removal of equipment so testing can be completed as required.

*City of Helena, Montana*