



Setting the Standards for Home Energy Efficiency

Interpretation: Dampened Ventilation Openings of Continuously Operating Ventilation

Designation: 380-2019-003

Approved: April 22, 2020 by RESNET SDC 300

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Reference:

Standard	ANSI/RESNET/ICC 380-2019
Page Number(s):	_____
Sections(s):	__4.2.10, 4.2.10.1 and 4.2.11__
Table(s):	_____
Relating to:	__Infiltration Testing__

Request from:

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Background Statement: *Provided by person requesting the interpretation.*

In Standard 380 section 4.2. Procedure to Prepare the Building or Dwelling Unit for Testing, item 4.2.10 addresses Dampers and 4.2.11 addresses Non-dampened openings for ventilation, combustion air and make-up air. There are many multifamily projects that use bath type exhaust or supply fans to provide continuous ventilation air. These fans have a back draft damper, but the damper is continuously open during normal operation. These appear to fall under item 4.2.10.1, however, based on the informative notes, it seems the intent of the standards is that if an intermittent mechanical ventilation system is used, the system is to be turned off and the damper left as is, but for a continuous mechanical ventilation system, the opening shall be sealed. The issue is that a dampened continuous mechanical ventilation system is not specifically addressed.

Proposed Interpretation: *Provided by person requesting the interpretation.*



Setting the **Standards** for
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Dampened and non-dampened ventilation openings of continuously operating dwelling unit and local exhaust ventilation systems that connect the Conditioned Space Volume to the exterior or to Unconditioned Space Volume shall be sealed to the exterior of the enclosure where conditions allow.

SDC Response:

Is the proposed interpretation correct? Yes No

SDC Comments:

As currently written, the Standard is clear that non-motorized dampers as described in this interpretation request must follow the requirements as stated in 4.2.10.1. However, this interpretation has identified an area of the standard that is not consistent with the intent of the standard with respect to continuously operating ventilation systems. Note that in response to this question, the Committee will review and revise the language in these sections to be consistent with the intent.