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**501.2 Exhaust discharge.** The air removed by every mechanical exhaust system shall be discharged outdoors at a point where it will not cause a nuisance and not less than the distances specified in section 501.2.1. The air shall be discharged to a location from which it cannot again be readily drawn in by a ventilating system. Air shall not be exhausted into an attic or crawlspace.

Exceptions:

1. Whole-house cooling fans shall be permitted to discharge into the attic space of dwelling units having private attics.
2. Commercial cooking recirculating systems.

**501.2.1 Location of exhaust outlets.** The termination of exhaust outlets and ducts discharging to the outdoors shall be located with the following minimum distances:

1. For ducts conveying explosive or flammable vapors, fumes or dusts: 30 feet (9144mm) from the property line; 10 feet (3048mm) from operable openings into the building; 6 feet (1829 mm) from exterior walls and roofs; 30 feet (9144 mm) from combustible walls and operable openings into the building which are in the direction of the exhaust discharge; 10 feet(3048 mm) from adjoining grade.
2. For other product-conveying outlets: 10 feet (3048 mm) from property lines; 3 feet (914 mm) from exterior walls and roofs; 10 feet (3048 mm) from operable openings into the building; 10 feet (3048 mm) above adjoining grade.
3. For environmental air exhaust other than enclosed parking garage and transformer vault exhaust: 3 feet (914 mm) from property lines, 3 feet (914 mm) from operable openings into buildings for all occupancies other than Group U, and 10 feet (3048 mm) from mechanical air intakes. Such exhaust shall not be considered hazardous or noxious.

Exceptions:

1. The separation between an air intake and exhaust outlet on a single listed package HVAC unit.
2. Exhaust from environmental air systems other than garages may be discharged into an open parking garage.
3. Except for Group I occupancies, where ventilation system design circumstances require building HVAC air to be relieved, such as during economizer operation, such air may be relieved into an open or enclosed parking garage within the same building.

4. Exhaust outlets serving structures in flood hazard areas shall be installed at or above the design flood level.
5. For enclosed parking garage exhaust system outlets and transformer vault exhaust system outlets: 10 feet (3048 mm) from property lines which separate one lot from another; 10 feet (3048 mm) from operable openings into buildings; 10 feet (3048 mm) above adjoining grade.

Exception: Parking garage and transformer vault exhaust outlets may terminate less than 10' above grade at the discretion of the building official.

6. For elevator machinery rooms in enclosed or open parking garages: Exhaust outlets may discharge air directly into the parking garage.
7. For specific systems see the following sections:
  - 7.1 Clothes dryer exhaust, Section 504.4.
  - 7.2 Kitchen hoods and other kitchen exhaust equipment, Sections 506.3, 506.4 and 506.5.
  - 7.3 Dust stock and refuse conveying systems, Section 511.
  - 7.4 Subslab soil exhaust systems, Section 512.4.
  - 7.5 Smoke control systems, Section 513.10.3.
  - 7.6 Refrigerant discharge, Section 1105.7.
  - 7.7 Machinery room discharge, Section 1105.6.1.

**504.4 Exhaust installation.** Dryer exhaust ducts for clothes dryers shall terminate on the outside of the building and shall be equipped with a back-draft damper. Dryer exhaust ducts may terminate at approved exterior louvers with not less than 1" openings in any direction. Screens shall not be installed at the duct termination. Ducts shall not be connected or installed with sheet metal screws or other fasteners that will obstruct the exhaust flow. Clothes dryer exhaust ducts shall not be connected to a vent connector, vent or chimney . Clothes dryer exhaust ducts shall not extend into or through ducts or plenums.

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