



**NOTICE:**  
**ALL MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS**  
**MANDATORY DUCT TEST FOR NEW SYSTEMS**

**DCA-2020 AMENDMENTS IECC 2015 EDITION**

**NEW SYSTEMS R403.3.3 Duct testing (Mandatory).**

**Ducts shall be pressure tested to determine air leakage by one of the following methods:**

1. Rough-in test: Total leakage shall be measured with a pressure differential of 0.1 inch w.g. (25 Pa) across the system, including the manufacturer's air handler enclosure.

All registers shall be taped or otherwise sealed during the test.

2. Post-construction test: Total leakage shall be measured with a pressure differential of 0.1 inch w.g. (25 Pa) across the entire system, including the manufacturer's air handler enclosure. Registers shall be taped or otherwise sealed during the test.

**Exceptions:**

1. A duct air leakage test shall not be required where the ducts and air handlers are located entirely within the building thermal envelope.

1. Duct tightness testing is not required for existing duct systems unless more than 50% of the duct system is modified.

2. If the air handler, furnace or evaporator coil is replaced on an existing system, all joints, seams and connections from equipment to duct system and duct system connections to plenums within 5 feet from the new work shall meet the sealing requirements of this code and be verified by a visual inspection by the state licensed conditioned air contractor or by a DET Verifier.

A report of the results of the test shall be signed by the party conducting the test and provided to the owner or the owner's agent and, if requested, to the code official. (Effective January 1, 2020)

**EXISTING SYSTEMS**

**CHAPTER 5 [REI EXISTING BUILDINGS]**

**SECTION R502**

**ADDITIONS**

\*Revise Section R502.1.1.2 'Heating and cooling systems' to delete the exception and substitute to read as follows:

R502.1.1.2 Heating and cooling systems. New heating, cooling and duct systems that are part of the addition shall comply with Sections R403.1, R403.2, R403.3, R403.5 and R403.6.

Exception: Duct tightness testing IS not required for existing duct systems unless more than 50% of the existing duct system is modified.

(Effective January 1, 2020)

**SECTION R503**

**ALTERATIONS**

\*Revise Section R503.1.2 'Heating and cooling systems' to read as follows:

R503.1.2 Heating and cooling systems. New heating, cooling and duct systems that are part of the alteration shall comply with Sections R403.1, R403.2, R403.3 and R403.6.

Exception: Duct tightness testing is not required for existing duct systems unless more than 50% of the existing duct system is modified.

(Effective January 1, 2020)