

**ORDINANCE NO. 051-06**

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Cedar Rapids Mechanical Code

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ORDINANCE NO. 051-06

CEDAR RAPIDS MECHANICAL CHAPTER 36 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE  
OF THE CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, BY REPEALING CHAPTER 36 THEREOF ENTITLED "MECHANICAL CODE," CONSISTING OF THE UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE, 2003 EDITION AS AMENDED; AND ENACTING AND ADOPTING A NEW CHAPTER 36 IN LIEU THEREOF ENTITLED "MECHANICAL CODE," BEING THIS ORDINANCE HEREAFTER SET OUT, WHICH ADOPTS BY REFERENCE, WITH CERTAIN AMENDMENTS, THE UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE, 2006 EDITION, INCLUDING APPENDIXES A AND B, WITH APPENDIXES C AND D ADOPTED BY REFERENCE ONLY AS PREPARED AND PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL OFFICIALS. REGULATING THE INSTALLATION, ALTERATION, REPAIR, RELOCATION, REPLACEMENT, ADDITION TO, USE, OR MAINTENANCE OF ANY HEATING, VENTILATING, COOLING, REFRIGERATION SYSTEM, INCINERATORS, OR OTHER MISCELLANEOUS HEAT PRODUCING OR REFRIGERATING EQUIPMENT IN THE CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA PROVIDING FOR THE EXAMINATION AND LICENSING OF DUCTED AIR, REFRIGERATION, AND HYDRONICS INSTALLERS; PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS AND COLLECTION OF FEES THEREOF; PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREFORE; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 36 of the Municipal Code of the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, entitled, "Mechanical Code," being the 2003 Uniform Mechanical Code as amended, is hereby repealed and a new Chapter 36 is hereby adopted in lieu thereof, as follows:

**MECHANICAL CODE**

**36.01 UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE ADOPTED.** Except as hereinafter added to, deleted, modified or amended, there is hereby adopted as the Mechanical Code of the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, that certain Mechanical Code known as the Uniform Mechanical Code, 2006 Edition, including Appendixes A and B, with Appendixes C and D adopted by reference only as prepared and published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials of Los Angeles, California; and the provisions of said Mechanical Code, as amended, shall be controlling in the design, construction, installation, alteration, repair, relocation, replacement, quality of materials, location, operation, use, maintenance or removal of heating, ventilating, cooling, or refrigeration systems, incinerators, or other miscellaneous heat producing or refrigerating, and air-handling equipment in all matters covered by said Mechanical Code within the corporate limits of the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and shall be known as the Cedar Rapids Mechanical Code.

**36.02 DEFINITIONS.** For use within this ordinance the following terms are defined:

1. Ducted Air-Cooling. The term "ducted air cooling" means comfort cooling to 68 degrees F or above by means of cooled air being distributed through ducts and discharged into a room or space.

2. Ducted Air Heating. The term "ducted air heating" means comfort heating by means of a warm air heating plant from which heated air is distributed through ducts to various rooms and areas.
3. Ducted Air Heating or Cooling Equipment. The term "ducted air heating or cooling equipment" means heating equipment, a heating system, or a cooling system as defined in Chapter 2 of the 2006 Uniform Mechanical Code.
4. Heating-Cooling. The term "heating-cooling" or "heating" or "cooling" means comfort heating or comfort cooling by means of a system or appliance using air as the heating, cooling or ventilating media.
5. Heating-Cooling Work. The term "heating-cooling work" means all installation, alteration, repair, relocation, replacement, addition to, maintenance or removal of heating, ventilating or air conditioning equipment or systems.
6. Hydronic Heating. The term "hydronic heating" means heating by means of a boiler or pressure vessel using hot water or steam as a heating media or for the distribution of heat,
7. Hydronic Heating or Cooling Equipment. The term "hydronic heating or cooling equipment" means all water heaters, boilers, pressure vessels, refrigerating equipment, combustion products vents, all steam or hot or cold water piping together with all control devices and accessories installed as part of, or in connection with, any comfort heating or comfort cooling system or appliance using a liquid, water or steam as the heating or cooling media.
8. Refrigeration System. A combination of parts in which a refrigerant is circulated for the purpose of extracting heat as defined in the Mechanical Code for cooling a room or space to less than 68 degrees Fahrenheit.
9. Refrigeration Work. All erection, installation, alteration, repair, relocation, replacement, maintenance, or removal of refrigeration equipment or systems.

### **36.03 MECHANICAL INSPECTION SECTION AND INSPECTOR.**

a) Inspection Section. There is hereby established in the Building Department of the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, a Mechanical Inspection Section consisting of Mechanical Inspectors. hereinafter referred to as Inspector.

b) Mechanical Inspector. The Mechanical Inspector is hereby authorized, directed, and empowered to make all inspections and to perform such duties as required by the terms of this ordinance for the enforcement of the Cedar Rapids Mechanical Code, and shall perform such other duties as may be required by the City Council or the Building Official.

Said Inspector shall be a person qualified and experienced in the installation of heating, ventilating, cooling and refrigeration systems and shall be appointed by the Mayor, with the approval of the City Council, from the approved list of the Civil Service Commission, in accordance with the statutes governing civil service appointments.

**36.04 CONFLICT OF INTEREST.** Delete and replace with: "The Building official, inspectors and other employees in the Department of Community Development Building Division who are engaged in the building inspections or plan review activities shall not directly or indirectly perform and/or be involved in any work, sales of services, equipment, materials or systems regulated by the Code for any financial gains/benefits nor enter into any written or verbal contractual agreements for financial gains/benefits. Employees may perform work or activities regulated by the Code when it is without compensation or other financial benefits. In no event,

shall the employee inspect or be involved in the inspection process on any project where the employee performed work or has a financial interest."

### **36.05 MECHANICAL BOARD OF APPEALS**

a) Establishment of the Board. There is hereby established a Mechanical Board of Appeals, hereinafter referred to as the "Board," with authority and responsibility as follows:

1. To act as a Board of Appeals as provided in the Cedar Rapids Mechanical Code.
2. To periodically review the provisions of the Cedar Rapids Mechanical Code and make recommendations to the City Council for improving and updating said document

b) Composition of the Board. The Board shall consist of 5 members, all of whose place of business, residence, or work is located in the City of Cedar Rapids.

One member shall be a licensed-insured ducted air heating-cooling contractor; one member shall be a licensed-insured hydronic heating-cooling contractor; one member shall be a licensed-insured refrigeration contractor; one member shall be a registered practicing mechanical engineer; and one member shall be a licensed practicing architect; all members to have been engaged in the profession of their primary interest for a period of at least 5 years in the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, immediately prior to their appointment.

The Mayor shall appoint the members of the Board with the approval of the City Council. The terms of the members shall be for 3 years; the terms shall be so arranged and staggered so that the terms of no more than 2 members shall expire on December 31st of any one year. A vacancy within any term shall be filled by appointment by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council for the unexpired portion of that term only.

The members of the Board shall serve without compensation. One member of the Board shall be appointed by the Board of Appeals to serve on the Metro Mechanical Licensing Board.

c) Powers and, Duties of the Board. The Mechanical Board of Appeals shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To hold regular meetings in January, May, and September of each year or more frequently if determined necessary for the purpose of mechanical appeals and interpretations.
2. To keep a complete record of the official proceedings of the Board; to preserve all documents, books, and papers relating to appeals for at least 3 years.
3. To hear appeals from the decision of the Mechanical Inspector and to rule on interpretations of the provisions of the Cedar Rapids Mechanical Code, and to determine the suitability of alternate materials and methods of construction consistent with the provisions of the Cedar Rapids Mechanical Code.

d) Quorum. Three members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

e) Chairperson. The Board shall annually elect one of its members as chairperson. The chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board or designate an acting chairperson to preside in his absence.

**36.06 APPEALS (UMC, Orders, Decisions and/or Determinations).** In the event any person shall feel aggrieved by an action of the Board, he may appeal from such action to the City Council by filing written notice of his appeal within ten (10) days from the date of such action.

The Council shall give the appealing party and the Board five (5) days written notice by certified mail of the date, time and place of hearing. All interested persons shall be given opportunity to be heard at such hearing and the City Council may affirm, modify, or over-rule the action of the Board.

### **36.07 MECHANICAL BOARD OF LICENSING**

a) Establishment of the Board. There is hereby established a Metro Mechanical Licensing Board, with authority and responsibility, as set forth by the Metro Mechanical Licensing Agreement, as follows:

1. Authority to qualify and license a person as a Ducted Air, refrigeration or Hydronics installer or contractor.
2. To register apprentice mechanical installers and keep records of such.
3. The Metro Mechanical Licensing Board as created by the 28E Agreement entitled "Metro Mechanical Licensing Agreement" shall constitute the Metro Mechanical Licensing Board.

### **36.08 LICENSE REQUIRED**

a) No person shall engage in the business of contracting, planning or supervising the installation, alteration, repair, relocation, replacement, addition to or removal of any heating, ventilating, cooling, air conditioning or refrigerating system or equipment within the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, unless such person is licensed and insured as a Metro Mechanical Contractor, in the appropriate category, by said City as provided in this ordinance, and has obtained a permit therefore from the Building Official according to the provisions of the Cedar Rapids Mechanical Code and the Metro Mechanical Licensing Agreement.

**36.09 MECHANICAL WORK EXEMPT.** The work of installing electric power equipment or system, non-ducted electrical heating or cooling appliances and the maintenance or repair of existing mechanical equipment, which does not alter the original listing or approval, shall be exempt from the licensing provision of this ordinance provided such electrical work is installed, inspected and approved in compliance with the Cedar Rapids Electrical Code.

**36.10 HOMEOWNER EXEMPTION EXAMINATION AND FEE.** A homeowner may do heating-cooling work in the single-family dwelling in which they reside without being licensed, provided that they demonstrate their capability to do such work by successfully completing a homeowner examination, and further provided that they obtain a permit and otherwise complies with the provisions of the Cedar Rapids Mechanical Code.

The fee for taking the homeowner examination shall be established by Resolution by the City Council. This exemption does not apply to new construction.

**36.11 DELETE SECTION 110.1** Delete Section 110.1 UMC in its entirety.

**36.12 EMERGENCY REPAIRS.** Amend Section 112.3 UMC by adding a new section as follows:

Section 112.3 Emergency Repairs. In case of emergency, involving imminent hazard to life or property as determined by the Mechanical Inspector, the contractor may proceed with necessary corrective work to alleviate the dangerous condition as it relates to the heating cooling equipment, prior to obtaining a permit, if same is required, providing that the permit is applied for and tentative approval obtained at the earliest practicable occasion thereafter."

**36.13 LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS APPLIANCES IN BASEMENTS.** Amend Section 304.7 UMC as follows:

Section 304.7 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Appliances in Basements. When liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) appliances are installed in basements or similar locations, the installation of an LPG detector shall be required.

The LPG detector shall receive its power from the building wiring. Installation shall comply with the manufacturer's recommendations.

**36.15** Delete Section 1309.5.3.2

**36.16** Delete Sections 1314.4, 1314.4.1, 134.4.2, 1314.4.3 and replace with: Test pressure shall be a minimum of 10 psi for low pressure with a maximum gauge of 30 psi. Pipe systems over 14" water column or welded pipe shall be a minimum of 60" psi with a gauge of 100 psi maximum.

**36.17 FEES.** Delete Section 115.2 of the Uniform Mechanical Code and replace said section with a new section as follows:

Section 115.2 Permit Fees. Mechanical permits shall not be issued until the fees, as set forth and established by resolution of the City Council, have been paid to the City Treasurer

**36.18 VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.** Delete Section 111.0 UMC Code and replace said section with a new section as follows:

Section 111.0 Violations and Penalties. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to erect, install, alter, repair, relocate, add to, replace, use, or maintain heating, ventilating, cooling or refrigeration equipment in the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, or cause the same to be done, contrary to or in violation of any of the provisions of this Code. Maintenance of equipment that was unlawful at the time it was installed and which would be unlawful under this Code if installed after the effective date of this Code shall constitute a continuing violation of this Code

Any person, firm or corporation violating, or failing to comply with any of the provisions of this Code, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall upon conviction, be fined a sum not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or be imprisoned for a term not to exceed thirty (30) days or by Municipal Infraction as prescribed by law. Each day that a violation occurs, or is permitted to occur, shall be considered as a separate offense.

**SECTION 2. VALIDITY AND SEVERABILITY** The various sections, subsections, chapters or parts of this ordinance and of the Uniform Mechanical Code hereby adopted are hereby declared to be severable and in the event that any such part of these provisions shall be held invalid for any reason, the invalidity of such section, subsection, chapter or part shall not invalidate any other of the provisions of this ordinance or of the Uniform Mechanical Code hereby adopted.

**SECTION 3. ADOPTION OF CODE** Pursuant to published notice a public hearing has been duly conducted upon the date, time, and at the place fixed in said notice upon the adoption of this Mechanical Code and the City Council of the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, hereby determines and finds that said proposed Mechanical Code shall be and the same is hereby adopted as an ordinance of the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.


**SECTION 4. CODE ON FILE** An official copy of the Cedar Rapids Mechanical Code hereby adopted, including a certificate by the City Clerk as to its adoption and the effective date thereof, is

on file in the office of the City Clerk in City Hall, and shall be kept there on file and copies shall be available for public inspection.

**SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE** This ordinance shall take effect on January 1, 2007, after passage and publication as provided by law.

Introduced this 6th day of December, 2006

Passed this 20th day of December, 2006.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk