



OCEAN CITY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
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MEMORANDUM

Subject: Kitchen Exhaust Fan Access for Sloped Roofs	Memo #: 2022-001
	Effective: 1/25/22
Authority: Deputy Chief Josh Bunting, Fire Marshal 	Internal (FMO Staff)

This memorandum clarifies the requirements for the “safe access and work surface for inspection and cleaning” on new kitchen exhaust terminations required under by NFPA 96, 7.8.2.2. The appendix provides further clarification as follows:

Rooftop Terminations. All roof exhaust fans (whether through the roof or to the roof from outside) should have ready access to all sides from a flat roof surface without a ladder, or they should be provided with safe access via built-in stairs, a walkway, or a portable ladder to a flat work surface on all sides of the fan.

Wall Terminations. All through-the-wall exhaust fans should have ready access from the ground from no more than a 2 m (6 ft) stepladder or should be provided with a flat work surface under the fan that allows for access to all sides of the fan from no more than a 6 m (20 ft) extension ladder.

For the purposes of defining a “flat roof surface”, the requirements from the *International Mechanical Code* (IMC 306.5.1), as adopted by the Ocean City Building Department, shall be used.

The IMC states that low-sloped roofs, consisting of a pitch of less than 3:12 (25 percent slope), shall be considered sufficiently flat to meet the requirements for a safe walking and working surface, and thus meet our requirements for safe work surfaces on all sides of the fan. Fans located on roofs with steeper pitch shall be provided with a flat work surface on all sides of the fan.

Access to a low slope roof and/or a flat work surface around a fan that involves walking on a roof with a slope greater than 4:12 (33 percent slope), shall not be considered acceptable, and suitable access shall be provided.

This shall not apply to the replacement, in-kind, of existing equipment.