

# GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

## CODE AMENDMENT FORM

ITEM NO: \_\_\_\_\_ (DCA USE ONLY) PAGE 1 OF 2

CODE: GA Energy Code SECTION: IECC C402.1

Abe Kruger, SK Collaborative; Sam

PROPOSER: Culpepper, Southface DATE: 2/20/2026

EMAIL: [sculpepper@southface.org](mailto:sculpepper@southface.org); [abe@skcollaborative.com](mailto:abe@skcollaborative.com)

ADDRESS: 241 Pine St NE Atlanta GA 30308

(404) 480-4600

ext 102;

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (404) 604-3599 FAX NUMBER: (404) 872-5009

CHECK  Revise section to read as follows:  Add new section to read as follows:

ONE:  Delete section and substitute the following:  Delete without substitution:

~~LINE THROUGH MATERIAL TO BE DELETED:~~ UNDERLINE MATERIAL TO BE ADDED

Approve  Approve as amended (DCA STAFF ONLY)  Disapprove  Withdrawn

### DESCRIPTION:

Amend this section of 2024 IECC: 401.2.2 ASHRAE 90.1

“Commercial buildings shall comply with the requirements of ANSI/ASHRAE/IES 90.1. In lieu of ASHRAE 90.1 Section 5.4.3.1.4 Measured Air Leakage, buildings shall comply with the air leakage requirements of Section C402.6.2, C402.6.2.1, and C402.6.2.2.”

### REASON/INTENT:

The purpose of this amendment is to establish uniformity in commercial envelope air leakage testing requirements across the State of Georgia, regardless of whether a project elects the IECC or ASHRAE 90.1 compliance pathway. Currently, ASHRAE 90.1 and the IECC maintain different protocols for measured air leakage. This amendment ensures that air sealing is confirmed consistently for all residential and institutional construction (Groups R and I).

By requiring the IECC testing protocol in lieu of the ASHRAE 90.1 Section 5.4.3.1.4, this amendment provides:

- **Greater Clarity:** Detailed testing procedures that are better aligned with local industry standards.
- **Sampling Flexibility:** Inclusion of the IECC's "sample testing" provisions for buildings with multiple dwelling and sleeping units, which provides a cost-effective compliance path not currently available in the ASHRAE 90.1 standard.

- **Enforcement Consistency:** A single set of criteria for building officials and third-party testers to verify, reducing field errors and administrative delays.

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#### FINANCIAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

**Overview:** Air sealing is widely recognized as one of the most cost-effective energy efficiency measures available in construction. The benefits include substantial energy savings, a reduced risk of moisture-related structural failure, and significantly improved occupant comfort. Currently, Georgia code already mandates blower door testing for single-family and low-rise multifamily buildings.

**Economic Consistency:** While the latest national codes require commercial blower door testing, this amendment ensures economic predictability by aligning the testing requirements across both the IECC and ASHRAE 90.1 compliance pathways. By creating a single standard, developers and contractors can achieve better pricing through standardized bidding and testing protocols.

**Cost Mitigation through Sampling:** Specifically for Group R (multifamily) and Group I (institutional) occupancies, this amendment reduces the potential financial burden of ASHRAE 90.1 compliance by allowing for unit sampling. IECC C402.6.2 protocols allow for statistical sampling rather than testing 100% of units in large developments. This represents a significant **cost reduction** compared to the more rigid testing interpretations often found in un-amended national standards. The result is a more predictable "per-unit" testing cost for developers, easing the complexity of enforcement and project budgeting.

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12. Information concerning submittal of code amendments, including deadline dates for submittal, can be obtained by contacting the Codes and Industrialized Buildings Section at (404) 679-3118. All proposed code amendments should be submitted to:

The Department of Community Affairs  
Codes and Industrialized Buildings Section  
60 Executive Park South, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30329-2231

# GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

## CODE AMENDMENT FORM

ITEM NO: \_\_\_\_\_ (DCA USE ONLY) PAGE 1 OF 1

2024 International Energy Conservation  
CODE: Code (IECC) SECTION: C403.7.5

PROPONENT: Gregg Cox DATE: 02/18/2026

EMAIL: gregg@mathesonball.com

ADDRESS: 225 Reformation Parkway; Suite 200; Canton, GA 30114

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (770) 751-0773 FAX NUMBER: (770) 751-0773

CHECK  Revise section to read as follows:  Add new section to read as follows:

ONE:  Delete section and substitute the following:  Delete without substitution:

~~LINE THROUGH MATERIAL TO BE DELETED:~~ UNDERLINE MATERIAL TO BE ADDED

Approve  Approve as amended (DCA STAFF ONLY)  Disapprove  Withdrawn

### DESCRIPTION:

I support carrying forward items 15 & 16 on the amendment chart.

2024-IECC-15 \*Delete Section ~~C403.2.8 'Kitchen Exhaust System'~~ without substitution.

2024-IECC-16 \*Delete Table ~~C403.2.8 'MAXIMUM NET EXHAUST FLOW RATE, CFM PER LINEAR FOOT OF HOOD LENGTH'~~ without substitution.

Which in the 2024 IECC code book supports deleting section (C403.7.5) **Kitchen Exhaust Systems** with corresponding table, without substitutions.

### REASON/INTENT:

Section C403.7.5 does not allow the use of the short-circuit hood design under any circumstances. This kitchen hood design type has been used by many school systems in the state of Georgia over the past 40 years with great success. Because a majority of the makeup air is introduced inside the hood and designed to induce room air toward the exhaust grease filters, the makeup air does not need to be heated and cooled, thereby saving energy.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Allowing short circuit kitchen hood designs to be used:

1. Reduces the usage and cost of energy to heat and cool makeup air, cutting energy costs throughout the life of the equipment
2. Additionally, the initial equipment cost is lowered because less expensive makeup air equipment that doesn't include heating and cooling components is allowed to be used.

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## CODE AMENDMENT FORM

ITEM NO: \_\_\_\_\_ (DCA USE ONLY) PAGE 1 OF 1

CODE: 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) SECTION: C403.7.5

PROPONENT: Scott Brown DATE: 02/18/2026

EMAIL: scott@mathesonball.com

ADDRESS: 225 Reformation Parkway; Suite 200; Canton, GA 30114

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (770) 999-0783 FAX NUMBER: (770) 999-0783

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Which in the 2024 IECC code book supports deleting section (C403.7.5) **Kitchen Exhaust Systems** with corresponding table, without substitutions.

### REASON/INTENT:

Section C403.7.5 does not permit the use of a short-circuit hood design. The short-circuit hood configuration has been successfully implemented by numerous school systems throughout Georgia for more than 3 decades. Because most of the makeup air is supplied within the hood and draws room air toward the exhaust grease filters, the makeup air does not require heating or cooling, resulting in energy savings.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

If short circuit kitchen hood designs are allowed to be used, the initial equipment costs will allow less expensive makeup air units that do not require integrated heating and cooling components. Removing the need for heating and cooling of the makeup air that is exhausted out of the building cuts energy usage for the life of the system.

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## CODE AMENDMENT FORM

ITEM NO: \_\_\_\_\_ (DCA USE ONLY) PAGE 1 OF 2

CODE: 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) SECTION: C403.7.5

PROPONENT: James E. Matheson, P.E. DATE: February 18, 2026

EMAIL: mathesonje@comcast.net

ADDRESS: 305 Chestatee Court, Woodstock, GA 30188

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 404-786-7121 FAX NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK  Revise section to read as follows: \_\_\_\_\_ Add new section to read as follows:

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Which in the 2024 IECC code book supports deleting section (C403.7.5) **Kitchen Exhaust Systems** with corresponding table, without substitutions.

### REASON/INTENT:

As written in the 2024 IECC, section C403.7.5 dictates short circuit kitchen exhaust systems are no longer acceptable as a design solution for facilities when they have been proven to be functional installations in kitchens throughout the state of GA, particularly in the K-12 market. As a professional engineer, I have successfully utilized short circuit hood systems with excellent results for over 35 years for my clients with low/medium cooking applications. Enactment of this code section without carrying forward Items 15 & 16 of the amendment list will result in unnecessary energy consumption and impose harsh first cost penalties for Owners. The option to utilize these systems should remain with design professionals.

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FINANCIAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

- Additional initial cost of specialized dedicated outside air conditioning equipment for conditioned make-up air.
- The ongoing utility costs required to heat and cool 4000-6000 cfm of make-up air that can range from 95 degrees F (summer) to 17 degrees F (winter) in Georgia.
- The cost of modifications to architectural and structural elements for the location and support of additional roof mounted equipment.

# GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

## CODE AMENDMENT FORM

ITEM NO: \_\_\_\_\_ (DCA USE ONLY) PAGE 1 OF 3

CODE: 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) SECTION: C403.7.5,

PROPONENT: James (Pat) Griffin, M.E. DATE: February 18,2026

EMAIL: pat@qualityairga.com

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 767445, Roswell, GA 30076

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 404-372-8521 FAX NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK  Revise section to read as follows: \_\_\_\_\_ Add new section to read as follows:

ONE:  Delete section and substitute the following: \_\_\_\_\_  Delete without substitution:

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### REASON/INTENT:

Section C403.7.5 does not allow the use of the short-circuit hood design under any circumstances.

With the Georgia climate and light cooking battery loads used in the K-12 school systems, "short-circuit" hoods have performed properly for over 40 years. With this history of effective performance, there is no reason to ban the use of the short-circuit hood.

The attached is a list of 22 Georgia school districts shows that the short-circuit compensating exhaust systems are installed in 80% of the 829 schools listed. These systems have been operating properly for 40 years on average.

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

The "Short Circuit" hood exhausts from 16 to 20 percent of its total exhaust air from the tempered air located in the space. 80 to 84 percent of the total exhaust air is made up of un-tempered outside air introduced through the hood from a dedicated make-up air unit. This system minimizes energy consumption because it is not heating or cooling 84% of the air being exhausted.

The first cost of the equipment to heat and/or cool, 5500 CFM to 6300 CFM of 100% outside air would be saved when using a short-circuit hood type system.

Free transfer air is rarely available from adjacent spaces because the majority of facilities utilize heat recovery units to recapture the energy from the tempered air being exhausted.

COUNTY NAME	PERCENT	# OF SCHOOLS USING "SHORT CIRCUIT" HOODS	# OF COUNTY SCHOOLS	FIRST SCHOOL	TOTAL YEARS
GWINNETT	81%	106	132	1975	51
COBB	74%	83	112	1975	51
FULTON	78%	79	101	1989	37
CLAYTON	86%	59	69	1974	51
HENRY	55%	30	55	1995	31
CHEROKEE	72%	28	39	1993	33
FORSYTH	89%	40	45	1992	34
DOUGLAS	82%	28	34	1978	48
PAULDING	68%	23	34	1986	40
COWETA	88%	29	33	1988	38
FAYETTE	76%	19	25	1976	50
CARROLL	67%	16	24	1988	38
NEWTON	70%	16	23	1994	32
FLOYD	81%	13	16	1994	32
BARTOW	90%	18	20	1975	51
BARROW	72%	13	18	1996	30
JACKSON	100%	12	12	1989	37
GORDON	100%	10	10	1975	51
MARIETTA CITY SCHOOLS	55%	8	11	1992	34
ROME CITY SCHOOLS	100%	8	8	1991	35
CARTERSVILLE CITY	100%	4	4	1990	36
CARROLLTON CITY	75%	3	4	1985	41
22 SCHOOL SYSTEMS	80%	645	829		40

# GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

## CODE AMENDMENT FORM

ITEM NO: \_\_\_\_\_ (DCA USE ONLY) PAGE 1 OF 1

CODE: 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) SECTION: C403.7.5

PROPONENT: Laban Busieney, PE DATE: February 19, 2026

EMAIL: lbusieney@southernae.com

ADDRESS: 7951 Troon Circle, Austell, GA 30168

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 770-819-7777 FAX NUMBER: 770-819-7770

CHECK  Revise section to read as follows: \_\_\_\_\_ Add new section to read as follows:

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---

## FINANCIAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

The proposed amendment will minimize the financial burden of the cost of construction, as well as ongoing operational costs due to the following reasons:

- Eliminate the additional initial cost of specialized dedicated outside air conditioning (DOAS) equipment to condition make-up air.
- Minimize the ongoing utility costs required to condition (heat, cool, and dehumidify) 4000-6000 cfm of make-up air via DOAS equipment that can range from 95 degrees F (summer) to 17 degrees F (winter) in Georgia.
- Minimize the cost of modifications to architectural and structural elements for the location and support of additional roof mounted equipment. This cost can be potentially significant in a retrofit application.



# GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

## CODE AMENDMENT FORM

ITEM NO: \_\_\_\_\_ (DCA USE ONLY) PAGE 1 OF 1

CODE: 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) SECTION: C403.7.5

PROPOSER: Michael Waldbillig, PE, LEED AP BD&C  
PROPOSER: CEO, Southern A&E DATE: February 20, 2026

EMAIL: mwaldbillig@southernae.com

ADDRESS: 7951 Troon Circle, Austell, GA 30168

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 770-819-7777 FAX NUMBER: 770-819-7770

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- Eliminate the additional initial cost of specialized dedicated outside air conditioning (DOAS) equipment to condition make-up air.
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- Minimize the cost of modifications to architectural and structural elements for the location and support of additional roof mounted equipment. This cost can be potentially significant in a retrofit application.



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## CODE AMENDMENT FORM

ITEM NO: \_\_\_\_\_ (DCA USE ONLY) PAGE 1 OF 1

CODE: 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) SECTION: C403.7.5

PROPOSER: Mike Dillon, PE, LEED AP, Spurlock & Assoc. Inc. DATE: 2/19/2026

EMAIL: mike@spurlock-eng.com

ADDRESS: 364 Green St, #635, Gainesville, Ga. 30503

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (770) 630-5710 FAX NUMBER: NA

CHECK  Revise section to read as follows:  Add new section to read as follows:

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### REASON/INTENT:

As written in the 2024 IECC, section C403.7.5 mandates short circuit kitchen exhaust systems may not introduce more than 10% make-up air to the hood vs the previous 84% we have been specifying for decades (with tremendous functionality and efficiency). It requires make-up air to be provided either by scavenging adjacent spaces (which was sometimes available at the previous much-reduced need) or, providing a dedicated ERU. In normal K-12 construction the rangehood is only part of the exhaust needs in a kitchen. There is toilet exhaust, dishwasher exhaust and possible pizza oven exhaust only hoods in HS's. By requiring an additional 74% (84-10) make-up air, a much larger dedicated DOAS or ERU would be required.

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FINANCIAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

- Additional initial cost of a much larger or additional, specialized dedicated outside air conditioning equipment for conditioned make-up air.
- The forever utility \$\$'s required to heat and cool 4000-6000 cfm of additional make-up air that can range from 95 degrees F (summer) to 17 degrees F (winter) in Georgia.
- The cost of modifications to architectural and structural elements for the location and support of additional roof mounted equipment.

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CODE: 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) SECTION: C403.7.5

PROPONENT: Brian Griffin-President Quality Air, Inc DATE: February 19, 2026

EMAIL: bgriffin@qualityairga.com

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 767445, Roswell, GA 30076

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (404)229-2371 FAX NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

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### REASON/INTENT:

This code section, as written, outlaws short circuit hoods. A short circuit hood is a compensating hood that introduces 60 to 84 percent of the exhaust flow rate directly into the hood cavity. The make-up air introduced is then exhausted out of the building. The make-up air stays within the hood cavity and never enters the occupied space in the kitchen. Since the fresh make-up air never enters the occupied space, it does not need to be heated or cooled. Therefore, the short circuit hood conserves energy by utilizing un-tempered air. The alternatives this code section suggests would require additional conditioned air to be introduced into the occupied space, only to be immediately exhausted out of the building.

The intent of the code is to conserve energy. When short circuit hoods are designed and installed properly in the right application, they work effectively while conserving energy.

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FINANCIAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Without the use of the short circuit hoods, the alternative exhaust systems would require the added initial and ongoing expense of additional conditioned air for the life of the building.

# GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

## CODE AMENDMENT FORM

ITEM NO: \_\_\_\_\_ (DCA USE ONLY) PAGE 1 OF 1

CODE: 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) SECTION: C403.7.5

PROPOSER: Doug Roland (Assistant Director) Cobb County School District DATE: Feb. 18, 2026

EMAIL: Doug.roland@cobbk12.org

ADDRESS: 560 Glover Street Marietta, Ga. 30060

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (770) 426-3355 FAX NUMBER: N/A

CHECK  Revise section to read as follows: \_\_\_\_\_ Add new section to read as follows:  
ONE:  Delete section and substitute the following: \_\_\_\_\_  Delete without substitution:

~~LINE THROUGH MATERIAL TO BE DELETED:~~ UNDERLINE MATERIAL TO BE ADDED

Approve  Approve as amended (DCA STAFF ONLY)  Disapprove  Withdrawn

### DESCRIPTION:

I support carrying forward items 15 & 16 on the amendment chart.

2024-IECC-15 \*Delete Section C403.2.8 'Kitchen Exhaust System' without substitution.  
2024-IECC-16 \*Delete Table C403.2.8 'MAXIMUM NET EXHAUST FLOW RATE, CFM PER LINEAR FOOT OF HOOD LENGTH' without substitution.

Which in the 2024 IECC code book supports deleting section (C403.7.5) **Kitchen Exhaust Systems** with corresponding table, without substitutions.

### REASON/INTENT:

C403.2.8 will impact our Design Standard (Short Circuit Hood) we have been using for many years now with great success. Designs other than Short Circuit have impacted our school system in a negative way.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Changing our design standard now will require treating outside air with a separate Air-Conditioner or ERU. This is added cost with system design and utility cost long term. Other designs have caused temperature and humidity issues in our kitchens along with elevated utility costs.



# GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

## CODE AMENDMENT FORM

ITEM NO: \_\_\_\_\_ (DCA USE ONLY) PAGE 1 OF 1

CODE: 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) SECTION: C403.7.5

PROPONENT: Mark Lord DATE: 2/18/2026

EMAIL: mark.lord@gcpsk12.org

53 Gwinnett Drive

ADDRESS: Lawrenceville, GA 30046

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (678) 618-5154 FAX NUMBER: (678) 377-3957

CHECK  Revise section to read as follows:  Add new section to read as follows:  
ONE:  Delete section and substitute the following:  Delete without substitution:

~~LINE THROUGH MATERIAL TO BE DELETED:~~ UNDERLINE MATERIAL TO BE ADDED

Approve  Approve as amended (DCA STAFF ONLY)  Disapprove  Withdrawn

### DESCRIPTION:

I support carrying forward items 15 & 16 on the amendment chart.

2024-IECC-15 \*Delete Section ~~C403.2.8 'Kitchen Exhaust System'~~ without substitution.

2024-IECC-16 \*Delete Table ~~C403.2.8 'MAXIMUM NET EXHAUST FLOW RATE, CFM PER LINEAR FOOT OF HOOD LENGTH'~~ without substitution.

Which in the 2024 IECC code book supports deleting section (C403.7.5) **Kitchen Exhaust Systems** with corresponding table, without substitutions.

### REASON/INTENT:

As written in the 2024 IECC, section C403.7.5 dictates short circuit kitchen exhaust systems are no longer acceptable as a design solution for facilities when they have been proven to be functional installations in kitchens throughout the state of GA, particularly in the K-12 market. The intent of the IECC should be to Minimize the energy consumption of facilities rather than outlaw a particular design solution. The energy consumption of this equipment is already regulated through fan horsepower limits in C403.8.1.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

- Additional initial cost of specialized dedicated outside air conditioning equipment for conditioned make-up air.
- The ongoing utility costs required to heat and cool 4000-6000 cfm of make-up air that can range from 95 degrees F (summer) to 17 degrees F (winter) in Georgia.
- The cost of modifications to architectural and structural elements for the location and support of additional roof mounted equipment.