

Nail Salon IMC Ventilation Code Compliance



Salon Pure Air

An exclusive Air Impurities
Removal Systems, Inc. brand

Importance of Source Capture Ventilation

In modern nail salons, implementing local exhaust ventilation (LEV) using source capture technology is essential to meet and exceed the ventilation requirements outlined in the International Mechanical Code (IMC). These systems help reduce exposure to airborne contaminants such as ultra-fine particles, acetone, isopropyl alcohol, and formaldehyde, protecting both technicians and clients.

Key IMC Ventilation Code Requirements

Under IMC Chapter 4 (Ventilation Code) and Section 403.3, each manicure and pedicure station must be equipped with a source capture system that meets the following:

- Provides a minimum exhaust rate of 50 cubic feet per minute (cfm) per station
- Has exhaust inlets located no more than 12 inches horizontally or vertically from the point of chemical application
- Discharges all captured air outdoors, preventing recirculation of contaminants within the salon

When one or more source capture systems operate continuously during salon hours, their exhaust airflow may count toward the total exhaust rate specified in Table 403.3.1.1 of the IMC.

Exhaust Outlet Placement – IMC Chapter 5 Requirements

Section 501.3.1 outlines minimum distances for exhaust outlets to ensure safety and indoor air quality.

Environmental Air Exhausts (from Salon Pure Air® systems)

- 3 feet (914 mm) from property lines
- 3 feet (914 mm) from operable openings into buildings

- 10 feet (3048 mm) from mechanical air intakes

Product-Conveying Outlets (e.g., exhaust ducts discharging chemical fumes)

- 10 feet (3048 mm) from property lines
 - 3 feet (914 mm) from exterior walls or roofs
 - 10 feet (3048 mm) from operable openings
 - 10 feet (3048 mm) above adjacent ground level
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Benefits of Salon Pure Air® Systems

Beyond meeting IMC code requirements, Salon Pure Air® systems offer:

- Energy efficiency: Clean air output contributes to the salon's total 0.6 cfm/ft² exhaust requirement
 - Enhanced safety: Prevents contaminated air from re-entering the salon or adjacent spaces
 - Reduced maintenance: Minimizes nail dust buildup in ductwork, lowering fire and clogging risks
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