

DUCTLESS SPLITS INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

With the warmer months upon us, we have received inquiries regarding the building code requirements for installing ductless splits in public buildings (churches, parish centers, schools, and rectories).

- The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has adopted the 2015 International Mechanical Code (IMC) with amendments as part of the MA State Building Code. Parish Rectories which qualify are governed by Section 403 of the IMC which states the requirements for mechanical ventilation for those building types.
- All other buildings classified by the MA State Building Code as Places of Assembly such as Churches, Parish Centers, Educational and Childcare Facilities are regulated by Section 403.3.1 which requires designed exhaust and ventilation systems. Therefore, the use of ductless mini-splits alone does not meet the provisions of the Code. These systems must be designed by and the installation overseen by a Massachusetts licensed design professional. Under the MA State Building Code, a Licensed Design Professional is a MA registered architect or MA licensed professional engineer*.
- Similar to Sanctuary renovations and in order to preserve the aesthetics and presence of our worship space the **design** must be approved by either the Diocesan Bishop or the Vicar General.

If you are considering ductless splits for your parish, please involve Mr. Russell Sprague in order to provide additional guidance and the names of authorized design professionals.

Lack of following the building codes may result in the potential closing of a building and resulting in the loss of being able to utilize the building until the proper equipment required by the code is installed, which will be in addition to the ductless splits.

Therefore, it is not just code issues and financial costs but a potential parish ministry diminishment and various media/social media issues that will follow as a result of a temporarily closed building due to code violations.

*Please contact Facilities and Maintenance for the most current list of approved engineers/architects/and mechanical contractors.