



Land Development Services

# Technical Bulletin

**Subject:** Pollution Control Unit (PCU)

**Date:** 8/18/21

**No.:** 21-09

**Summary:** The Virginia Mechanical Code (VMC) Section [506.5.2](#) provides requirements for installing a Pollution Control Unit (PCU). This technical bulletin clarifies the intent of [VMC 506.5.2](#), item number four, regarding the materials and systems within the PCU room or space.

**Effective Date:** Immediately.

**Background:** A PCU is a part of the grease duct system. Grease ducts must be continuously enclosed from the point it penetrates a ceiling, wall, floor, or concealed space to the outlet terminal. Like the rest of the grease duct enclosure, the PCU room must comply with the requirements of [VMC 506.3.11](#). The duct enclosure shall serve a single grease duct. Other ducts, piping or wiring systems are not permitted in the enclosure.

The intent is to avoid a fire hazard from materials installed within a grease duct enclosure. Accordingly, other building materials and systems installed in a rated PCU enclosure room may increase the fire hazard and hence shall not be permitted.

**Policy:** In addition to all requirements from [VMC 506.5.2](#), Building Division, Land Development Services requires the following:

*PCU shall be installed in a dedicated room or space enclosure, constructed as required by [VMC 506.3.11.1](#), having the same fire-resistance rating as the duct enclosure.*

If you have any questions, please contact Pramod Silwal in the Building Division at **703-324-1683, TTY 711**.

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