



**DATE:** October 1, 2021  
**INTERPRETATION NO.:** CI2021-0004  
**TITLE:** Registers for Balancing Dampers  
**RELATED DEPT. & DIVISION:** Development Services Department  
**TOPIC:** HVAC  
**DECISION MAKER:** Beth M. Culver, AIA, CBO, Building Official

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**SUMMARY:** The 2015 International Energy Conservation Code refers to Chapter 6, Section 603.18 of the 2015 International Mechanical Code for definitive means of air balancing. This interpretation determines if supply registers meet this function.

Supply registers do not meet the requirement for “volume dampers or other means of supply air adjustment” in Section 603.18 of the 2015 International Mechanical Code.

**CODE SECTIONS:** 2015 International Mechanical Code (IMC)

- [§603.18](#)

2015 Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC)

- [§E 502.3](#)

2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)

**CODE INTERPRETATION:**

It is unlikely that register dampers alone can adequately ensure that the air distribution system is properly balanced to supply minimum air rates for the building. Supply air registers are better suited for fine tuning the comfort level.

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Beth M. Culver, AIA, CBO, Building Official

*This interpretation was previously approved as CI2013-0001 by Dan McNabb, Deputy Building Official.*