



May 15, 2020

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RE: Floor Drains in Restaurants

Dammon Engineering was contacted to review the building codes to determine where floor drains are required within restaurant kitchen areas.

The 2015 International Plumbing Code has a commentary comment in Section 412.1 : “Except as required by Section 412.4, floor drains and trench drains are typically installed at the discretion of the design professional where an accumulation of water on a floor or other horizontal area could create a personnel hazard or could cause damage to building finishes or structures”. Section 412.4 covers Public laundries and central washing facilities; these are not normally found within restaurants.

The State of Louisiana amended the 2015 International Plumbing Code to include the requirement for Emergency Floor Drains to be installed in all public restrooms. Item 7 : Amend Section 412, Floor and Trench Drains.

a. Add Section 412.5, Miscellaneous Areas.

i. A floor drain shall be required in public toilet rooms, excluding hotel/motel guest rooms or patient rooms of a hospital or nursing home.

ii. A floor drain shall be required in the recess room for sterilizers in a medical facility.

iii. Floor drains are not permitted in general food storage areas, unless in accordance with Section 802.1.1 or 802.1.2 of this code.

The Health Department for State of Louisiana states: If a floor drain is not located within five (5) feet of the dishwasher, the drain line from the dishwasher must be indirectly connected to the sanitary sewer by an approved air gap, (3105-A.3.). However, the 2015 International Plumbing Code requires all commercial dishwashers to be indirectly connected to the sanitary sewer by an approved air gap.

Although none of the codes listed above give any requirements for floor drains in the kitchen area of a restaurant, each municipality’s plumbing inspector sometimes has a different outlook than the minimum requirements shown in the codes.

Sincerely,

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