



Start with the listed clearance. If the listing prohibits reduction, the discussion is over. A note that says “clearance reduction per code” is not an assembly.

Original Masterbuild PE packet from Daily Code Talk on 2024 IMC 308. Confirm the adopted edition, listing, and manufacturer instructions. This is not a reduced-clearance design.

☐ **If reduction is allowed, the protective assembly must comply with 308 and cannot be placed less than 1 inch from the equipment.**

Protective assemblies and supports: noncombustible. If the method depends on an airspace, keep the airspace around the edges; spacers must allow convection. Blocking the airspace defeats the protection.

☐ **Two paths: (1) approved assembly listed and labeled to UL 1618, or (2) Table 308.4.2 within table limits. Interpolation between methods is not allowed.**

Table methods cannot reduce some clearances: solid-fuel appliances with small listed clearances, masonry chimneys, chimney connector pass-throughs, masonry fireplaces, and kitchen exhaust ducts enclosed in shafts have specific limitations.

☐ **Show original required clearance, proposed reduced clearance, material, airspace, support, UL 1618 or table basis, and the listing.**

Walk the installed clearance before startup — field substitutions kill the reduction.

The fail we see first

The unit is closer than the listing. “Per code” with no assembly. Field substitutions that close the airspace.

What to send: the listing clearance, a photo or section of the tight side, and whether anyone already “reduced it in the field.”

Send the comments. Not the County guideline.

Folio (does it start with 30?), process or UP number, and the comments PDF. Masterbuild will say which row is actually open.

masterbuildconsulting.com/send/

+1 (786) 398-6940 · Calendly: 30-minute scoping call

Masterbuild provides engineering services under a written scope. Not a reduced-clearance design. Confirm adopted 308. This is not legal advice.