



A door undercut is a gap, not a duct. Size return and transfer openings to the manufacturer, ACCA Manual D, or the design professional. Return taken from a room cannot exceed the supply delivered to that room. Closets under 30 square feet need a 1½-inch undercut, a louvered door, or a transfer grille with at least 30 square inches of net free area — and that closet return can serve only that closet. A ¾-inch undercut at a 32-inch door is only about 24 square inches gross.

Original Masterbuild PE packet from Daily Code Talk on 2024 IMC 601.5. Confirm the adopted edition. Distinct from 601 corridor returns and 501.4 pressure equalization. This is not a duct design. Type I hood replacement air is still IMC 508 — an undercut door is not makeup air for a kitchen hood. A practical field recommendation of about 1 square inch of transfer opening per 1 cfm is a Daily Code Talk rule of thumb, not a code minimum.

- ☐ **Paths that actually work: a dedicated return duct, a jump duct (a short duct over the door, grille to grille), a transfer grille,**
Do not copy a “typical ¾-inch undercut” onto every door.
- ☐ **Closets under 30 square feet: 1½-inch door undercut, louvered door, or transfer grille with at least 30 in² net free area.**
A bedroom getting 120 cfm needs a jump duct or a transfer grille, not a hope. If the only return is a central hall grille, every closed bedroom is a transfer problem.
- ☐ **Where return cannot be taken (unless a listed exception applies): bathrooms, toilet rooms, kitchens, garages, boiler room**
Stay 10 feet from an open combustion chamber or draft hood of another appliance in the same room.

The fail we see first

A ¾-inch undercut on a 150-cfm office. The door slams, the room pressurizes, the diffuser dumps. Draw the jump duct. If rated construction is in the way, that opening needs a 607 damper — not a hole.

What to send: room-by-room supply cfm if you have it, door widths and undercut (or a photo of the bottom of the door), whether any jump ducts or transfer grilles exist, and whether any of those doors sit in a rated or smoke-barrier wall.

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 duct design. Confirm adopted 601.5. This is not legal advice.