



A plenum is not “the space above the ceiling.” IMC 602.2: enclosure materials exposed to airflow comply with IBC 703.3, or flame spread not over 25 and smoke-developed not over 50 (ASTM E84 / UL 723). Gypsum board can form a plenum only where air temperature does not exceed 125°F and the gypsum surface stays above the airstream dew point. Stud cavities and joist spaces cannot be used as supply-air plenums.

Original Masterbuild PE packet from Daily Code Talk on 2024 IMC 602.2–602.2.1. Confirm the adopted edition. Distinct from 602 overview and 602.3 listings. This is not a plenum listing.

☐ **Exposed-to-airflow materials: IBC 703.3 or flame spread ≤ 25 / smoke ≤ 50 (ASTM E84 / UL 723).**

Gypsum plenums: air $\leq 125^\circ\text{F}$ and gypsum surface above the airstream dew point. No gypsum-board supply plenums on systems with direct evaporative cooling.

☐ **602.2.1: stud cavity and joist space cannot be used as supply-air plenums. Cannot be part of a required fire-resistance-ra**

Meet IBC floor-penetration protection and isolate from adjacent concealed spaces with approved fireblocking. Exterior-wall stud cavities cannot be used as plenums.

The fail we see first

Supply air in the stud bay, gypsum over a 140°F coil. Or an exterior-wall cavity used as a return. Those fail 602.2.1 even when 602.1 “where allowed” was answered correctly.

What to send: whether the ceiling or a stud/joist cavity is used as a plenum, supply vs return, the leaving-air temperature, and whether gypsum or evaporative cooling is in that path.

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 plenum listing. 25/50 and 125°F are Daily Code Talk education. Confirm adopted 602.2. This is not legal advice.