



New Castle County Government Center
87 Reads Way
New Castle, DE 19720
Department of Land Use - Building Inspections

Date: **December 22, 2010**
Subject: **Mechanical system piping insulation**
References: **2009 International Energy Conservation Code**

This Staff Code Interpretation is intended to be used to clarify Section 403.3 (Mechanical system piping insulation) in the above referenced Code Edition.

Below is the exact text from the section of the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code in question.

Section 403.3, Mechanical system piping insulation. Mechanical system piping capable of carrying fluids above 105F degrees or below 55F degrees shall be insulated to a minimum of R-3.

Question: For cooling systems, is it the intent of section 403.3 to require both the suction line and the liquid line to be insulated? Previous code versions (2000 and 2003) had a table for pipe insulation and for cooling systems; only the suction line carrying fluid at a low temperature was required to be insulated.

Answer: The refrigerant piping is required to be insulated when the fluids carried are below 55°F or above 105°F. So it depends on the temperature. A heat pump will need both lines insulated.

Code Updates: This code section is unchanged by the adoption of the 2012 IECC.

George O. Haggerty
Code Official

STAFF CODE INTERPRETATION