

SUBJECT: **Unconfined Space**

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 25, 2010

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: ADM – 2.0223.0

SEE ALSO: 2006 UPC – Section 223.0

INTERPRETATION SUMMARY

This definition says that “rooms communicating directly with the space in which appliances are installed, through openings not furnished with doors, are considered a part of the unconfined space”. It is the interpretation of this Department that when determining combustion air requirements for appliances in existing construction, common rooms or spaces may be considered to be unconfined if they communicate with several rooms by means of doors that open into the common room and when the combined area of all of the rooms exceeds the total volume required by the appliances. In addition, enough rooms shall be connected to the common room or space under consideration that the closure of any single door will not reduce the volume to less than that required by the appliances. It is our interpretation that it is unreasonable to assume that all of the doors into such a space would be shut all of the time and consideration should be given to those connecting rooms for augmenting the volume of required combustion air. The area of storerooms separated by doors shall not be included in the allowable area as these doors are usually maintained in a closed position. For example, a common room space such as a living/dining/kitchen area that in turn connects with bedrooms, bathrooms, playrooms, etc. would be considered to be unconfined if the total area of the spaces exceeds the requirements by enough area that the closure of any single door will not reduce the volume below the required minimum.