IMPACT PROTECTION FOR APPLIANCES IN GARAGES

The 2018 IRC Section M1307.3.1 states “Appliances shall not be installed in a location subject to vehicle damage except where protected by approved barriers.” In order to maintain consistent requirements for impact resistance, the following items are deemed acceptable means of protection:

1. A two inch (2”) schedule 40 iron pipe imbedded in and filled with concrete and a minimum of twelve (12”) inches in depth from top of slab to bottom of tube. Steel tubing must be a minimum of thirty-six (36”) inches in height above finished floor and spaced every four (4’) feet in front of the appliance location.

2. A raised concrete platform not less than four (4”) inches higher than the finished floor of the garage, with a minimum clearance of three (3’) feet from the front of the appliances to the edge of the platform.

3. A separate compartment for the appliances completely enclosed with a minimum of 2x4 framing members and finished on both sides with no greater than a thirty-six (36”) inch opening or a separate access door. Any requirements regarding combustion air for the appliances shall be met.

4. A wheel stop placed a minimum of three (3’) feet from the front of the appliance and permanently attached to the floor by a mechanical fastener such as wedge anchors or rebar, drilled and epoxied into the slab. The wheel stop must be a minimum of six (6”) inches in thickness from the floor to the top of the stop.

5. A two inch (2”) schedule 40 steel pipe welded to a six (6”) inch by eight (8”) inch ¼” steel plate fastened with a minimum of three (3) ½” by 2 ¾” wedge anchors or the equivalent.

The requirement for impact protection refers to all appliances located in a garage. In the case of fuel fired appliances, the requirement for the ignition source to be located eighteen (18”) inches above the floor of the garage would still apply along with an approved method of impact protection.