

Florida Building Commission
Mechanical Technical Advisory Committee
Orlando Florida
January 7, 2002
REPORT

Meeting Objectives:

1. Discuss membership slots open and recommend replacement voting members.
2. Review proposed Dec Statement to clarify the wind resistance requirements of Section 301.13.

(1) The TAC recommended that Mr. Pedro Quintela of Miami-Dade Code Compliance Office fill the general interest membership slot open at this time.

(2) The TAC met and discussed the request for declaratory statement on an interpretation of Section 301.13 of the Florida Building Code / Mechanical. Section 301.13 states “Mechanical equipment, appliances and supports that are exposed to wind shall be designed and installed to resist the wind pressure determined in accordance with the Florida Building Code”

General comments:

- S The Petitioners summarized his request as stated above.
- S The industry needs an interpretation that is practical.
- S Should conduct a study to develop specific criteria for implementing this section and reach consensus on the issue.
- S Unit setting on the ground should be exempted from the wind design requirements and the copper piping attached to the unit should be sufficient means of fastening.
- S Cooling towers installed on the ground should be structurally designed and fastened to the ground.
- S Roof top units are not common in residential applications.
- S Should address the commercial applications separate from the residential applications.
- S Equipment such as “Trane” are available which meet the wind design requirements.

Action - the Committee voted to endorse staff recommendation Option b and issue the following clarification with regard to the intent of Section 301.13: “If the fastening system of the equipment is designed to meet the wind design requirements of Chapter 16 of the Code, the installation of the mechanical equipment will comply with the intent of Section 301.13 of the Mechanical Code.”

Approved (5-2).

Option b: Clarify that only the equipment's fastening systems (how the equipment is attached to the stand and how the stand is attached to the roof, structure, etc.) are required to be designed to meet the wind load requirement of the Code. The equipment's fastening systems, at a minimum must be designed to resist overturning and sliding forces due to the wind pressures as required by Chapter 16 of the Code.

Note: The Chair, Ms. Peggy Patterson (Harris) requested that Mr. Pedro Quintela of Miami-Dade Code Compliance Office and Mr. Rusty Carrel of Broward County Board of Appeal provide Nick D'Andrea, Chairman of the Structural TAC, with information available with regard to tie down of mechanical units.