

**BALTIMORE AIRCOIL COMPANY**

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FILED

Department of Business and Professional Regulation

Deputy Agency Clerk

CLERK Brandon Nichols

Date 7/11/2012

File #

07-10-2012

To Mo Madani
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399

DS 2012-052

RE: Petition for Declaratory Statement before the Florida Building Commission

Dear Mr. Madani.

Please consider this letter as a request for a petition for a declaratory statement before the Florida Building Commission. The request involves an interpretation of the Florida Statute 553 844(4).

Baltimore Aircoil Company (BAC) is a manufacturer of cooling towers for various installations in the United States. Cooling Towers reject unwanted heat from building and processes to the outside air. In operation, the water flows from the condenser of the chiller directly over the heat transfer surface of the cooling tower. As air is introduced into the tower, a fraction of this water is evaporated, cooling the remaining water which is returned to the chiller to absorb more heat.

In many cases, cooling towers are located on a rooftop, bolted to supports, and are exposed to the wind and other elements.

A customer located in South Florida approached us to clarify if the use of cooling towers is included in the Florida Statute 553 844(4). The cooling tower is located on the roof of the building. As we understand it, the tie down to supports is required by the FBC. However our questions pertain to the cooling tower structural system itself.

Question:

Does the Florida Statute 553 844(4) exempt exposed mechanical equipment, including the cooling tower structural system, from design for wind loads in accordance with the Florida Building Code?

Question:

Does Senate Bill 704 (Building Construction and Inspection), which was signed by Governor Rick Scott, extend the expiration of FS 553.844 until 2013?

Best Regards,

Kavita A. Vallabhaneni

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