



FLORIDA BUILDING CODE BINDING INTERPRETATION



Date: August 22, 2006
Report #: 4
Code: Mechanical (2001 Edition)
Section: 603.4

"The Petitioner in this instance has requested interpretation of 2001 FBC–Mechanical Code Section 603.4. The Building Official and Appeals Board have rendered (and applied) an interpretation of 2001 FBC–Mechanical Code Section 501.5. This binding interpretation will address the correct interpretation and application of Section 501.5 as it applies to the circumstances in this instance. Section 501.5, 2001 FBC–Mechanical requires that exhaust ducts shall be of metal and such construction shall comply with Chapter 6.

The Petitioner, in a letter dated March 22, 2006, acknowledges that neither Section 502.9 (Hazardous Exhaust) nor Section 510 (Hazardous Exhaust Systems) applies to the installation in question. The Petitioner, in the application for this Binding Interpretation defines the disputed portion of this installation as "flexible air connector[s], providing a connection from 357 separate diffusers connecting to metal exhaust duct in general, non hazardous lab work areas, break rooms and similar areas" The description further says: "all exhaust connections from lab fume hoods are completely metal" implying that no elements corrosive to the metal ducts will be present. These statements and the designed metal exhaust connections at the fume hoods appear to negate any documentation submitted by the Petitioner that supports alternate duct materials or design because of the presence of chemical or corrosive exhaust.

While other sections of the Mechanical code may support the approval and installation of alternative duct construction materials, none of those code sections seems to be applicable in this instance. Section 501.5 clearly requires metal exhaust ducts and by inference prohibits the installation of non–metallic exhaust ducts under the circumstances described."

Notice:

The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Community Affairs, industry and professional experts offer this interpretation of the Florida Building Codes in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This interpretation is formal and binding statewide.