



STATE OF FLORIDA  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY  
AFFAIRS**

*"Dedicated to making Florida a better place to call home"*

CHARLIE CRIST  
Governor

THOMAS G. PELHAM  
Secretary

August 27, 2009

Stephen R. Yurek, President  
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute  
2111 Wilson Blvd, Suite 500  
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Florida Requirements for the Hurricane Resistance of Outdoor Mounted HVAC Equipment

Dear Mr. Yurek:

You are aware, one of the major problems Florida must address is hurricane protection. Hurricanes have devastated areas of Florida, damaged its economy and created property insurance crises since the early 1990's. In response, the Florida Legislature enacted the state developed Florida Building Code (the Code) and used it to address hurricane damage to buildings. The Code in turn has addressed numerous building weaknesses including outdoor mounted HVAC system components.

While the Florida Code has led the advancement of hurricane protection requirements it is not alone in addressing the potential damage to buildings resulting from equipment that breaks loose from its attachment to structures. The American Society of Civil Engineers, Standard 7 also currently provides criteria, which we understand will be even more directive in the next edition. Some HVAC equipment manufacturers have responded to the codes and standards requirements however of concern are code enforcement jurisdictions' reports that most have not demonstrated their products meet appropriate standards.

The Florida Building Commission is responsible for working with industries, building officials and other interests to develop and update the Code. A dialog with your industry, local jurisdictions and insurance industry interests would be a constructive approach to address the compliance concern. I propose that we arrange a meeting of the parties to discuss how industry and government can move forward together and request that you identify and coordinate participation of your manufacturer members' representatives. Please contact me 305.448.7417, [rlrodriguez@rodriguezquirolga.com](mailto:rlrodriguez@rodriguezquirolga.com)) or Mr. Rick Dixon, staff to the Commission, (850-921-2278, [rick.dixon@dca.state.fl.us](mailto:rick.dixon@dca.state.fl.us)), to establish how we can, together initiate this dialog.

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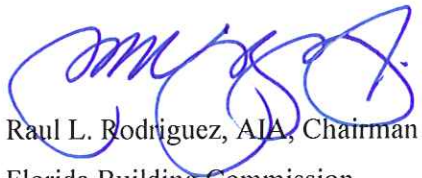
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Thank you for your assistance with this Florida initiative. We look forward to a cooperative effort to resolve each party's concerns and to achieve the hurricane protections directed by The Florida Building Code.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Rodriguez', is written over the typed name.

Raul L. Rodriguez, AIA, Chairman  
Florida Building Commission