



**Informal Interpretation Report  
Number 5260**



**Date** July 26, 2007

**Edition** 2004

**Section** 1607.7

**Question:**

Is the 200 pound "concentrated" load addressed in Section 1607.7 allowed to be distributed over the full length of the railing, as an "assembly"? As an example: a wooden railing supported by wooden balusters or pickets spaced at 6' on center, how many of those wooden balusters can you assume resist the 200# point load? One of them, 3 of them, or all of them? In other words, how is the 200# point load distributed?

**Answer:**

The 200 pound concentrated load is for a load applied in any direction at any point along the top. The 200 pound load would be applied to the top rail, not the balusters. The balusters need only support 50# psf. The assembly is required to transfer the load to the structural elements of the building. The design has to account for the load applied from any direction at any point along the top of the handrail or guardrail.

On 07/26/2007 at 10:43 AM

**Commentary:**

If the balusters are a structural component and not infill (as most are) they would need to transfer this load to the supporting structure without a failure in the railing. If the balusters are infill, the 200# load applied to the top rail must be transferred to the supporting structure via structural members.

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**Notice:**

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interpretation of the Florida Building Code in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This interpretation is informal, non-binding and subject to acceptance and approval by the local building official.