



Informal Interpretation Report Number 5319



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Section 517.13(A)

Question:

Is it the intent of NEC 517.13(A) to exempt individual patient care areas from redundant grounding if the facility can not treat four or more persons? Comment: NFPA 101 defines a Health Care Occupancy as a place that has four or more individual patient treatment or care areas. I have someone who has brought to light the point that since the unit in question is classified as an "office" by NFPA 101, since it only has three treatment or care areas, that it is exempt from the grounding requirements of NEC 517.13(A).

Answer

No. Patient Care Areas are defined in Article 517.2 of The National Electrical Code, NFPA 70. The definition for Health Care Occupancy in NFPA 101 has nothing to do with a patient care area. If the room meets the definition of a patient care area of 517.2 of the 2005 NEC, then it applies.

Commentary:

None

Notice:

The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation, ICC, and industry and professional experts offer this 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.