



**Informal Interpretation Report  
Number 5398**



**Date** October 19, 2007

**Edition** 2004

**Section** 504.7

**Question:**

Is it the intent of the omission of the elevation of a pan drain outlet in a water heater pan to allow me to install the 1" outlet of a 4" deep water heater pan to be at 2" to center-line from the floor of the pan? Comment: We have been named in a class-action lawsuit and their suit states "Water heater drip pan pipes installed 1" or more above bottom of the pan" and we cannot find any verbage in the plumbing code where a minimum or maximum elevation of the pan drain outlet in relationship to the bottom of the pan is given.

**Answer:**

Yes. The code does not speak to the issue of where the outlet must be. Some pans are bottom outlet and some are side outlet. The requirement in this Section is that the pan must be at least 1 1/2" deep. Water heaters are required by 502.3 to be installed per the manufacturers installation instructions. If additional criteria is stated in the manufacturers installation instructions, whether new or a retrofit, these instructions must be followed.

On 10/19/2007 at 9:11 PM

**Commentary:**

None.

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**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.