



## Informal Interpretation Report Number 5532



**Date** February 03, 2008

**Edition** 2004

**Section** 505

### **Question:**

Is it the intent of the mechanical code to allow a residential ducted or non-ducted hood for a residential range in a commercial building. Ex. an office break room. Comment: The mechanical code is not very clear on this use and it occurs fairly frequently. I want to ensure we are applying an interpretation that is commonly acceptable.

### **Answer**

No.

### **Commentary:**

Exhaust to the outdoors is required unless natural or mechanical ventilation is provided for the office break room. Additionally, the Building Official would have to evaluate the amount of cooking estimated to take place and decide if a hood, and what type is necessary.

Further, 505 only applies to dwelling units according to 505.1. If the code official determines that commercial cooking is not likely to take place at this location then neither 506 nor 507 should apply. The only code section left of any relevance is 917.1 which requires compliance with manufacturer's installation instructions. One could try to apply 507.2.3 but, then the situation would require a type I hood which is probably overkill. If it's a gas stove, then it's subject to FBC, Fuel Gas 623.1. If the ventilation system is designed in accordance with ASHRAE 62.1-2004 rather than 403 (as allowed under 403.4), exhaust is required. The Ventilation Rate Method (6.2.8) requires exhaust in accordance with Table 6-4. This table lists commercial kitchens with a rate of 0.7 CFM/sq ft and kitchenettes with a rate of 0.3 CFM/sq ft. Also, Addendum H

modified this table to include residential kitchens with an exhaust rate of 50/100 cfm with the lower to be continuous and the higher being intermittent.

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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.