



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 5605**



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Edition 2004

Section 1607.11.2.4

Question:

Is it the intent of subject section to apply to freestanding aluminum walkway covers as commonly used within schools allowing weather protection for pedestrians curbside at driveways. Comment: The AHJ is contending that aluminum walkway covers are NOT classified as "canopies" because they are not fabric covered.

Answer

Fabric or other cover is not the determining factor here. The AHJ, based on the information presented shall make the determination as to this being a "canopy" or "walkway, covered" using the code definitions. The definitions are clear and depending on which one it fits, it must be designed accordingly. Please reference the attached commentary.

Commentary:

The definition for covered walkway states that buildings are connected. The question references covers at curbside at driveways. If the structure is solely to provide weather protection at the driveway and does not connect buildings, it is properly classified a canopy and should be designed in accordance with FBCB s.3105.5. Structural Design for a walkway must be per 423.9 based on ASCE 7, with a wind load importance factor for educational facilities of 1.15. DEFINITION: WALKWAY, COVERED. A roofed, unobstructed walkway connecting buildings and used as a means of travel by persons and where less than 50 percent of the perimeter is enclosed and the maximum width perpendicular to the direction of travel is less than 30 feet (9144 mm). Further, as defined in the bldg code: Canopy- Any fixed roof-like structure, not movable like an awning, and which is cantilevered in whole or in part self-

supporting, but having no side walls or curtains other than valances not more than 18 inches (457 mm) deep. Lean-to canopies, fixed umbrellas and similar structures are included in this classification. Structures having side walls or valances more than 18 inches (457 mm) deep shall be classified as a tent as set forth herein. Hence, once the definition is made by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), the design can then be completed.

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.