



**Informal Interpretation Report  
Number 5937**



**Date** October 28, 2008

**Edition** 2007

**Section** 402.2

**Question:**

Is it the intent of natural ventilation to supercede mechanical exhaust requirements of table 403.3 for parking garages common for multiple units if garage doors meet 4% of floor area?

**Answer**

No. 401.2 allows natural ventilation in accordance with 402.2, but 401.7 refers to Chapter 5. Sections 502.13 and 502.14 refer back to 403 and 404. Mechanical ventilation is required unless the garage meets the definition of "open" or is one-or-two family residential as 502.14, Exception 2. Any enclosed parking garage (not meeting the definition of "open") is required to have mechanical ventilation unless it is accessory to an R-3 occupancy.

**Commentary:**

Per FBC 406.3.1 (handbook) a parking garage must be defined as one of the following 4 types: Private, Enclosed, Repair, or Open. The garage described above would be "enclosed" and must satisfy the specific requirements for enclosed parking garages FBC-M 404, not the general ventilation requirements of FBC-M 402.1 While this question was answered previously for the 2004 Florida Code in Report #5302, this response is based on the 2007 Code, per the request.

---

**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.