



## Informal Interpretation Report Number 6221



**Date** July 03, 2009

**Edition** 2007

**Section** 706

### **Question:**

Is it the intent of Florida Building Code - Building section 706 to allow the fire resistance rating of tenant separation walls in mixed occupancies, such as those separating mercantile and business tenancies, to be reduced by 1-hour when the building is equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system?

### **Answer**

No. Florida Building Code - Building section 706 deals with the installation requirements of Fire Barriers, not the fire ratings of tenant separation. Florida Building Code - Building section 708, Fire Partitions, sets the requirements for tenant separation and there is no allowance to reduce the required fire rating if sprinklers are used.

### **Commentary:**

There is no reduction permitted for the tenant separation for sprinklers, except in mini-warehouses and certain dwelling and sleeping units buildings of Type IIB, IIIB and VB construction. The system in the mini-warehouses is for Ordinary Hazard Group II as defined by NFPA 13 and is required to use quick response heads. Please note the sprinkler system cited (903.3.1.1) for the reductions in the dwellings and dwelling units is an NFPA 13 system, not an NFPA 13R system.

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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.