



**Informal Interpretation Report  
Number 6299**



**Date** September 19, 2009

**Edition** 2004

**Section** 405.3.1

**Question:**

Is it the intent of Florida Building Code - Plumbing Section 405.3.1 not to permit the required 15" side clear space, in a toilet compartment, to be encroached upon by a large commercial two roll paper holder?

**Answer**

Yes. Florida Building Code - Plumbing Section 405.3.1 states, in part, that "A water closet, urinal, lavatory or bidet shall not be set closer than 15 inches from its center to any side wall, partition, vanity or other obstruction...". As this section is written, a large dispenser could be considered an obstruction depending on several factors, such as the actual size of the dispenser and the actual installation location.

**Commentary:**

If the toilet paper dispenser is located beyond the front edge of the toilet bowl, use is not restricted and there is no encroachment. The National Kitchen and Bath Association suggests 8 to 12 inches beyond the front edge of the bowl.

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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.