



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 6379**



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Section 703.4

Question:

Is it the intent of Florida Building Code - Building Section 703.4 to permit the use of limited combustible material, such as gypsum board, rock wool batting and roof insulation board in buildings of Type I, II and III construction?

Answer

A qualified yes. Materials such as gypsum wall board or plaster are permitted as composite materials in accordance with Florida Building Code - Building Section 703.4.2, which specifically permits this application provided the core of the composite is noncombustible and meets ASTM 136. Insulation in buildings of Type I and II construction is addressed in Florida Building Code - Building Section 603, Items 2 and 3. The application to roofing insulation board would depend on the materials and further information is necessary to provide a specific answer. Also, FBC - Building Section 703.4.1 Elementary materials, states that materials required to be noncombustible shall be tested in accordance with ASTM E 136. Section 703.4.2 Composite Materials, states that materials having a structural base of noncombustible material as determined in accordance with Section 703.4.1 with a surfacing not more than 0.125 inch (3.18 mm) thick that has a flame spread index not greater than 50 when tested in accordance with ASTM E 84 shall be acceptable as noncombustible materials.

Commentary:

The term "limited combustible materials" is not defined in the Florida Building Code. The language found at FBC - Building Section 703.4.2 was contained within the

definition of noncombustible in the Standard Building Code.

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.