



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 6536**



Date May 14, 2010

Edition 2007

Section 312

Question:

Is it the intent of Florida Building Code - Building Section 312 to permit activities such as eating, sleeping, cooking, or any other activity that is generally preformed in a habitable structure to be performed in a Group U Occupancy?

Answer

No. Florida Building Code - Building Section 312 describes Group U occupancies as "Buildings and structures of an accessory character and miscellaneous structures not classified in any specific occupancy shall be constructed, equipped and maintained to conform to the requirements of this code commensurate with the fire and life hazard incidental to their occupancy." The activities described would, at a minimum, cause the space to be classified as residential.

Commentary:

As defined, HABITABLE SPACE is "a space in a structure for living, sleeping, eating or cooking. Bathrooms, toilet compartments, closets, halls, screen enclosures, sunroom Categories I, II and III as defined in the AAMA/NPEA/NSA 2100, storage or utility space and similar areas are not considered habitable space."

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.