



## Informal Interpretation Report Number 6557



**Date** July 01, 2010

**Edition** 2007

**Section** 4101.17.1.6

### **Question:**

Is it the intent of Florida Building Code - Residential Section R4101.17.1.6 to consider a 2 3/8" chain link fence mesh opening to be within acceptable construction tolerances?

### **Answer**

No. Florida Building Code - Residential Section R4101.17.1.6 specifically calls for a maximum mesh size of 2 1/4".

### **Commentary:**

Construction tolerances are for variations in field conditions typical in construction and NOT for conditions which are controllable at a manufacturing plant. A commission report prepared by National Institute of Health also addressed this issue. It noted that "standard chain link fencing" would allow most children ages 24 - 42 months to place their feet fully inside the openings. This design characteristic may account for reports of young children who drowned after scaling chain link fences of heights up to 6 ft. This issue also came up during the ICC 2006 proposed code changes. The National Drowning Prevention Alliance filed a proposal to reduce the opening size to 1.25"; it was defeated and the MAXIMUM 2-1/4" mesh dimension was retained.

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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.