



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 6596**



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Section 603.5.6.6 #3

Question:

Is it the intent of Florida Building Code - Mechanical Section 603.5.6.6 #3 to not include a diffuser in the definition of a terminal device?

Answer

No, it is not the intent of the code to exclude the diffuser from the definition of Terminal Device.

Commentary:

The definition of "Terminal" in Chapter 13 of the FBC-Building (the source of Sections 603.5.6.6 and 603.6 of the FBC- Mechanical) reads as follows: "A device by which energy from a system is finally delivered, e.g., registers, diffusers, lighting fixtures, faucets, etc." Where the terminal fitting is attached to the building envelope (joists) and the diffuser is attached to the terminal fitting (by screws/mechanical device), it is mechanically attached. Further, Section 603.6.2 requires that terminal fittings be sealed with mastic or gaskets. This is important because of air leakage from around the terminal device. Another issue is whether a grille (register) requires independent support. There are more and more of the industrial look designs with no ceilings. In these cases the registers are attached directly to a rigid duct with no tie wires or other support for the terminal device. In these cases, the duct provides the required support for the register, grille, diffuser. The key is a mechanical attachment to the duct and the duct system being properly supported.

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.