



Informal Interpretation Report Number 6729



Date May 12, 2011

Edition 2007

Section 401.4.1

Question:

Is it the intent of 401.4.1 that mechanical and gravity out door air intake openings shall be located 10 feet horizontally from any hazardous or noxious contaminate source such as vents, chimneys, plumbing vents, streets, alleys, parking lots and loading docks, except as otherwise specified in this code.

Answer

The FBC-Mechanical does not directly apply to a 1 & 2 family dwellings. Refer to the FBC-Residential Section R303.4.1. But since Generators are NOT specifically covered by the FBC-Residential, M1301.1 refers you to FBC-Mechanical. FBC-Mechanical section 915 refers you to NFPA-37. NFPA-37 has specific requirements for clearances from openings and combustible construction for "The installation of liquid-fueled stationary internal combustion engines".

Commentary:

In accordance with M1307.1 "Installation of appliances shall conform to the conditions of their listing and label and the manufacturer's installation instructions." The generator manufacturer will have instructions stating the required clearances to building "openings". The stricter of the two (Manufacturer or NFPA-37) will determine the clearance requirements.

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.