



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 6733**



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Section 603.15

Question:

Is it the intent of this section to MANDATE that duct work on a vertical installation in the garage, on a 4" raised step area be protected or wrapped in 22 or 24 gauge sheet metal?

Answer

Not necessarily. If this is a 1&2 Family dwelling, this code section does not apply. Please Refer to Residential Code. Sections 613.15 & R-M1601.3.11 are identical: "Ducts installed in locations where they are exposed to mechanical damage by vehicles (or) from other causes shall be protected by approved barriers." The key here is "other causes".

Commentary:

"Approved" is defined in the Code as "Acceptable to the building official." The protection method doesn't necessarily have to be sheet metal but whatever is used will be subject to the approval of the Building Official.

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.