



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 6763**



Date July 22, 2011

Edition 2007

Section 1101.6

Question:

Is it the intent of this code to require a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) outside of Chiller Plants? The Florida Building Code (Mechanical) 2007 references ASHRAE Standard 15-2001. ASHRAE Standard 15-2007 does not require an SCBA at the refrigeration machinery room. Addendum 15d to ASHRAE Standard 15-1994 in 2000 eliminated the SCBA requirement. Please provide interpretations on requiring, or not requiring, SBCAs in Florida for present code compliance.

Answer

This question was asked to ASHRAE and this is the official ASHRAE answer:

QUESTION: Are self contained breathing apparatuses (SCBA's) required outside of refrigeration machinery rooms?

ANSWER:

ASHRAE Standard 15-2007, Safety Standard for Refrigeration Systems, does not require that SCBA's be placed outside of the refrigeration machinery room.

The 1994 version of the Standard did have a requirement for SCBA's outside the machinery room (Section 11.6) but this requirement was eliminated from the Standard with the approval and publication of Addendum 15d to ASHRAE Standard 15-1994 in 2000. This addendum is available for free download on the Standards and Technology page at the ASHRAE website (www.ashrae.org).

The local authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) will establish and enforce the governing building code and should be consulted to determine the requirements for a specific design, building, or application. If the code references ASHRAE Standard 15, the SCBA requirement may depend on which version of the ASHRAE Standard is referenced or specifically how the code is worded.

Copies of the standards and latest addenda may be purchased and downloaded online at our website, www.ashrae.org or by calling 1-404-636-8400 worldwide.

Commentary:

None.

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.