



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 6847**



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Section 602.1

Question:

Is it the intent of sections 602.1, 704.8 and of table 602 to consider the spaces between columns in a free-standing, canopy type structure as an opening in a wall even if there is no "wall" as such?

Answer

If it falls within the definition of "CANOPY" then technically it has no walls. However, in accordance with 602.1 "the building elements shall have a fire-resistance rating not less than that specified in Table 601" and Table-602 would also apply (subnote B may apply if it's a "U" occupancy). If the occupancy type is a "U", see 406.1.2 #2.

Commentary:

The local Building Official will make the determination regarding the occupancy type and T-601 and T-602 applicability. Additional details for canopies are addressed in section 3105.

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.