



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 6866**



Date November 30, 2011

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Section 903.6.1

Question:

Is it the intent of 903.6.1 exception 2, to exclude a five story parking garage constructed of noncombustible materials, uniformly open to the atmosphere on all sides meeting the criteria specified in Section 406.3, separated by more than 20 feet from other structures, with the attachment of noncombustible pedestrian walkway bridges at upper levels connecting the garage with secondary structure, from being sprinklered?

Answer

Yes, with caveat; The Building Official must be satisfied that it is truly a stand alone structure and that fire cannot spread from either structure to the next and that they are structurally independent of each other such that if one fails the other will not.

Commentary:

Separation between the bridge and the parking deck, open atmosphere pedestrian bridge, non-combustible pedestrian bridge, fire sprinklers in the pedestrian bridge, structural design of the bridge would all be considerations as potential methods in meeting the spirit and intent of the stand-alone provision.

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.