



Informal Interpretation Report Number 6871



Date December 16, 2011

Edition 2007

Section 705.5

Question:

Is it the intent of FBC 705.5 exception 3 to use non-combustible exterior sheathing with combustible exterior finishing if the building is sprinklered?

Answer

No. 705.5 exception #3 allows the removal of the 18" minimum extension in a building with automatic sprinkler protection (on both sides of the Fire Wall) if the Fire Wall terminates at the interior side of noncombustible exterior sheathing. It is silent on the combustibility of additional exterior finish.

Commentary:

If the 7/16" OSB is sheathing or siding and the fire wall will terminate at the sheathing or siding, the answer is yes, a one hour fire resistance rating is required for 4 feet on either side of the fire wall. The requirements of protection on the sides are governed by the requirements/conditions of 705.5.1.

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.