



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 6877**



Date December 23, 2011

Edition 2007

Section 912.2.1

Question:

Is it the intent of the Florida Building Code, Existing Building, section 912.2.1 to require the installation of a fire sprinkler system in an existing un-sprinkled (A-2) restaurant with an existing occupant count of over 100 persons when adding an outside seating/dinning area increasing the restaurants occupant count further beyond limits of section 903.2.1.2 of the Building Code.

Answer

Section 912.2.1 refers to a "change in occupancy". In the case described there is no change of occupancy occurring. However, the simple answer is YES in accordance to section 903.2.1.2 of the Building Code as mentioned in the question.

Commentary:

Check with the local Building Official as he/she may consider:

1. The occupant load of the building may not increase and;
2. The outside seating area is true open air and;
3. The outside seating area has an independent means of egress that does not require access through the building and that FBC section 903.2.1.2 refers to "fire areas" which if properly separated (2-hr) may do away with the requirement for Fire Sprinklers.

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.