



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 6931**



Date March 01, 2012

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Section R311.5.6

Question:

Is it the intent of R311.5.6 not allow a 42" height handrail as part of a HVHZ required 42" guardrail for a Single Family Residence spiral stair?

Answer

Yes.

R311.5.6 & R4403.7.3.1 are two separate items.

R 311.5.6 regulates the requirements for handrails.

R4403.7.3.1 regulates the protection of the walking surface around the opening in the floor or roof. Therefore the handrail must meet height requirements of 34"-38" measured from the tread. And the guardrail around the opening in the floor or roof must meet the height requirements from the top of the floor or roof surface.

Commentary:

See BOAF Informal Interpretation #4454.

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.