



## Informal Interpretation Report Number 6941



**Date** March 08, 2012

**Edition** 2007

**Section** 1001.2

### **Question:**

Can an existing (A-2) restaurant, with more than 100 seats, add an outdoor open-air patio without installing a fire sprinkler system in the existing building under the premise of Section 1001.2?

### **Answer**

This is best answered by the local building official after reviewing the specific details of the patio arrangement. Example: use of "Fire Areas" or if the patio has a separate, properly identified means of egress arrangement (number of exits, exit signs and emergency lighting) that discharges directly to a public way, then the local building official may decide to accept an "alternate design" showing that there is sufficient safety in the proposed design to look at the patio occupant load as not increasing the safety hazard in the under roof restaurant space. However, if any portion of the means of egress from the patio is required to egress through the restaurant, then the patio should clearly be included in determining if the 100 person threshold is tripped and fire sprinkler protection is required.

### **Commentary:**

Plumbing code would require that the entire seating capacity (indoor and outdoor) be used to determine the required fixture count.

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### **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.