



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 6957**



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Section 403.5.1

Question:

Is it the intent of section 403.5.1 to require, in all high-rise buildings, that a min. separation distance between exit stair enclosures be measured in a direct line between the nearest points of the enclosures, irrespective of the exit door locations, and that this requirement supercedes all other exit separation requirements in the code (ie: 1015.2.1 exceptions 1, 2 & 3)?

Answer

Yes, this is a specific requirement for high rise construction.

Commentary:

The provisions were part of the response to the problems noted in the Twin Towers collapse.

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.