



Informal Interpretation Report Number 6989



Date June 13, 2012

Edition 2007

Section M1403.1

Question:

Is it the intent of M1403.1 When replacing an A/C unit of the same size to enlarge the return duct to meet this code

Answer

Section M1403.1 is not applicable to a replacement A/C unit. The Florida Existing Building Code does not refer you back to the Residential Code. However, in no case shall the installation violate the manufacturer's installation instructions. The requirement for compliance with FBC-M is Section 301.11 Repair. "... shall be replaced or repaired in such a manner so as to preserve the original approval or listing." Beyond the manufacturer's requirements, the contractor is responsible to review the installed equipment and its ability to work utilizing the existing duct system. The use of ductwork that is too small may prevent proper operation of the new equipment, may prevent installation in accordance with manufacturer's requirements (static pressure limitations), or may reduce the efficiency of the equipment below the minimum Energy Code stipulations. If any changes to the duct system are required, then the contractor should make those corrections. At that point the inspector should review new work for code compliance.

Commentary:

Under the 2007 codes, load calculations were specifically excluded from being a requirement for replacement A/C systems.

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.