



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 6998**



Date May 18, 2012

Edition 2010

Section 4409.5.1.1, 4403.16.1a, 4

Question:

Is it the intent of this code section to use rational analysis when designing exterior 2x4 walls?

Answer

Yes.

Commentary:

Section R4409.5.1.1 allows the studs in exterior walls to be less than 2 x 6 only if designed by rational analysis by a licensed professional engineer or architect proficient in structural design. Rational analysis must demonstrate compliance with the structural requirements of R4403. Minimum sizes may not be sufficient in all cases; therefore, a rational analysis is required to ensure design loads are complied with. Compliance with R4403, R4409 and all of the other conditions contained in section R4403.16.4 (2) is the means to obtain an exemption from the testing requirements of section R4403.16.1.

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.