



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7002**



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Edition 2001

Section 601.4

Question:

Is it the intent of section 601.4 exception 3 to mean if a house was permitted in 2003 it requires return air vents in all habitable rooms including the master suite. Even if there is a return vent just outside the master bedroom door?

Answer

No; with a caveat. 601.4 of the Florida Building Code - Mechanical (FBC-M) does not specifically require return air registers to be installed in any location. This section stipulates that the pressure differential be not more than 0.01" W.C. This may be accomplished by a varied amount of designs. The last sentence of Exception #3 states "...except that all supply air into the master suite shall be included." In order to accomplish this it is likely that a return air duct will be required especially when it's a large master suite or other large habitable room.

Commentary:

One way to determine if the duct system is in compliance is to hire a local air balance company to perform a test report on the home. If the duct system is not in compliance with exception #1 or #2, then a return air duct would probably have to be installed, or some other design provision to meet the 0.01" W.C. as required by FBC-M 601.4.

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.