



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7089**



Date October 24, 2012

Edition 2010

Section 603.7

Question:

Is it the intent of the mechanical code not to require a fire damper in a metal duct penetrating a wall separating a garage from a dwelling unit and what are the exceptions.

Answer

No fire damper is required in the duct penetration from the garage to a dwelling unit unless the building code requires such wall to maintain a specific fire resistance rating.

Commentary:

This section of code assumes an unrated wall assembly between the dwelling unit and garage. The section intends to create a fire resistant barrier between the garage and dwelling unit without creating a specific rated assembly. As such, flexible duct may not be used to penetrate such walls. Some AHJs have allowed the use of 1-inch (minimum) fiberglass ductboard as an alternate to the minimum 26 ga. metal duct(see FBC-R section 302.5.2). However, this is a decision the local Building Official would have to make. BOAF has no position on the approval as an Alternate Method or Material based on the section quoted in this request.

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.