



Informal Interpretation Report Number 7111



Date November 28, 2012

Edition 2010

Section R403.1.4 Minimum depth

Question:

Is it the intent of this section of the code to not allow dirt to be backfilled to the exterior of the footing, where the bottom of the footing is at least 12" below grade?

Answer

No. The term "undisturbed fill" relates to the soil supporting the footing. From the description provided, the requirement for the footing to be supported on undisturbed natural soils or engineered fill at Section R403.1 has been fulfilled. The proper slope for drainage complying with Section R401.3 or alternate drainage of water away from the foundation is required.

Commentary:

Backfilling is not a problem. The intent of this section is to protect the footing from soil movement caused by freezing and thawing. Backfilling will have no effect. The bottom of the footing is still at least 12" below the ground surface and meets the intent.

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.