



## Informal Interpretation Report Number 7123



**Date** February 05, 2013

**Edition** 2010

**Section** 423.13.7.2

### **Question:**

Is it the intent of 423.13.7.2 to require built in horizontal members or permanent chair rails on large glass panels even if they are safety glazing and is it up to the building official to determine what is a large glass panel since the code does not define this term?

### **Answer**

As indicated in Informal Interpretation No. 5814, the section is directly related to the 9 square feet area as indicated in Section 2406.4.7(7.1) of the FBC, 2010. The requirement is to provide for a chair rail or visual barrier in the sidelite and/or windows so that the opening would not appear as an exit opening for people to walk through. In educational facilities, the 9 square feet area is considered too large for pre-kindergarten children and is required to be reduced by Department of Education standards. For the high school students, the 9 square feet is acceptable.

### **Commentary:**

The Department of Education chose to use the horizontal bar and safety glass for all applications in public schools. The AHJ is considered to use both Section 423.13.7.2 and Section 2406.4.7(7.1) as references when reviewing plans for public education facilities. The requirement for the subdivision of sidelites and windows has been in existence since 1970 in Rule 6A-2.32(6)(c) Special safety provisions section of the State Requirements for Educational Facilities.

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**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.