



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7131**



Date February 22, 2013

Edition 2007

Section R311.5.8

Question:

Is it the intent of R311.5.8 that spiral stairs
are to comply with the 4" sphere requirement for
open risers contained in R311.5.3.3, based on the 2007 edition?

Answer

Yes. R311.5.8 Requires spiral stairs, bulkhead enclosure stairways, and circular stairways comply with the requirements of R311.5. With only 3 exceptions, and the requirement 4" sphere in open risers is not one of the exceptions.

Commentary:

R311.5.3.3 Profile clearly permits open risers but provides the opening between treads cannot permit the passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere. "R311.5.3.3 Profile. The radius of curvature at the leading edge of the tread shall be no greater than 9/16 inch (14.3 mm). Every tread less than 10 inches (254 mm) wide shall have a nosing or effective projection of approximately 1 inch (25 mm) over the level immediately below that tread. Beveling of nosing shall not exceed 1/2 inch (12.7 mm). Risers shall be vertical or sloped from the underside of the leading edge of the tread above at an angle not more than 30 (0.51 rad) degrees from the vertical. Open risers are permitted, provided that the opening between treads does not permit the passage of a 4-inch diameter (102 mm) sphere."

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.