



**Informal Interpretation Report  
Number 7153**



**Date** April 04, 2013

**Edition** 2010

**Section** 504.8

**Question:**

Is it the intent of 504.8 to require a standby generator to power dryer exhaust fans that serve multi-story common dryer exhaust systems in non-high rise residential buildings?

**Answer**

Yes. The Florida Mechanical Code 2010 Sec. 504.8- item 7 clearly requires stand by power.

**Commentary:**

The purpose is to restrict such systems from being able to act as a chimney stack and allow smoke to get into multiple other units. Dryer vents are not permitted to have fire or smoke dampers installed in the ducts. Therefore, if a multi-story or common venting system is utilized, considerations have to be made in the gauge of the metal used for venting and maintaining a negative pressure on the system in the event a fire happens in the venting system or building. Chapter 6 has specific exceptions to bathroom and dryer exhaust in a rated shaft for B and R occupancies.

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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.