



## Informal Interpretation Report Number 7178



**Date** June 07, 2013

**Edition** 2010

**Section** 202

### **Question:**

Is it the intent of definition of story to make an exception for a shelving system that creates a floor with walkways and shelves that cover over 90% of 7500 square foot building? The argument that this is not a floor, is that is not attached to the building and it can be considered as furniture. Stairs are provided and the floor is a perforated plank grating.

### **Answer**

much more information is needed to provide a proper answer this question...Here are some thoughts and codes:

While the building code does not really address the issues raised, the FFPC (NFPA 101) may offer some relief in their treatment of storage facilities. The FFPC permits noncombustible grated stair treads and landings and permits the size of various elements to comply with the requirements for industrial equipment access, which are considerably reduced. NFPA 101:42.2.2.3 Stairs.

42.2.2.3.1 Stairs shall comply with 7.2.2 and shall be permitted to be modified as follows:(1) Noncombustible grated stair treads and noncombustible grated landing floors shall be permitted.(2) Industrial equipment access stairs in accordance with 40.2.5.2 shall be permitted.

101 Handbook Commentary:Paragraph 42.2.2.3.1(1) exempts stair treads and landings in storage occupancies from the provisions of 7.2.2.3.3.1, which would otherwise require that all stair treads and stair landings be solid. Although the requirement for solid treads and landings is intended to prevent occupants from avoiding the use of the stairs because they become afraid when they are able to see through the openings to the floor or ground below, occupants of storage occupancies are usually more

familiar, and thus more comfortable, with grated or expanded metal treads and landings. There is also a high degree of certainty that occupants will be wearing shoes appropriate for the environment, and no high heels that could get stuck in the grate openings. The grated walking surfaces provide slip resistance in what are sometimes greasy and slippery surroundings. Paragraph 42.2.2.3.1(2) serves to remind the user that the special provisions for industrial equipment access stairs in 40.2.5.2 are permitted to be used in storage occupancies. The provisions of 40.2.5.2 differ from the requirements of Chapter 7. See the commentary following 40.2.5.2.2. 101 40.2.5.2 Industrial Equipment Access. 40.2.5.2.1 Industrial equipment access doors, walkways, platforms, ramps, and stairs that serve as a component of the means of egress from the involved equipment shall be permitted in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 7, as modified by Table 40.2.5.2.1. Table 40.2.5.2.1 Industrial Equipment Access Dimensional Criteria 40.2.5.2.2 Any means of egress component permitted by 40.2.5.2.1 shall serve not more than 20 people.

**Commentary:**

None.

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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.