



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7179**



Date May 31, 2013

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Section 312.1

Question:

Is it the intent of this section to require guards on retaining walls that are more than 30" above the adjacent grade.

Answer

No. Unless there's a walking surface near the retaining wall. The section calls for guards at porches, balconies, ramps or raised floor surfaces. This situation sounds like it is open ground with the retaining wall used for terracing or elevation change with no walking surfaces nearby.

Commentary:

There may be some requirement if the difference in elevation is associated with a right-of-way or some public access, but the requirement would not come from the FBCR.

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.