



Informal Interpretation Report Number 7222



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Section 402

Question:

Is it the intent of chapter 402 to allow natural ventilation in all commercial buildings in lieu of mechanical ventilation regardless of occupant density, activity level, or space usage? For example, in a church setting which is an assembly occupancy, this would normally require several hundred CFM of outside air for a typical size church, would it be acceptable to omit the ventilation completely if you have greater than 4% glass to floor ratio given that the building was kept at positive pressure?

Answer

Natural ventilation is acceptable for most circumstances. However, where Table 403.3 indicates mechanical ventilation required then mechanical ventilation shall be provided (see footnotes of Table 403.3). Keep in mind, Section 402 requires the openable area of windows and doors to be at least 4 percent of the floor area served by the openings. one must bear in mind that the 4% is not the glazed area, but the openable area which can be through windows, doors, louvers or other openings to the outdoors and not fixed glazing.

Commentary:

FEC 503.2.10.6 requires the building be pressurized with respect to outdoors and is only applicable to mechanical ventilation

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.