



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7231**



Date September 25, 2013

Edition 2010

Section 707.4

Question:

Is it the intent of Section 707.4 to allow non-fire rated exterior walls complying with Section 705 to serve as separation between fire areas (reference also Sections 707.3.9, 901.7, and 903.2.1.2)?

Answer

No. A wall with no fire resistance rating cannot serve to separate fire areas.

Commentary:

In the situation described, as part of the comment, the exterior area would be included within the fire area definition since the definition includes "Areas of the

building not provided with surrounding walls....if such areas are included within the horizontal projection of the

roof...."

In order to create separate fire areas, a fire barrier wall would need to be utilized per section 707.3.9 to separate the fire areas to limit square footage.

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.