



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7252**



Date November 13, 2013

Edition 2010

Section 401.4.1

Question:

Is it the intent of section 401.4.1 to permit the mechanical air intake for a dwelling unit to be within 10 feet of a residential bathroom, kitchen or dryer exhaust? Specifically, can the intake be located no less than 36 inches away from these exhaust outlets?

Answer

NO. This code section does not contemplate "environmental air". FMC 401.4 provides a similar option of an intake opening not less than 3 feet below contaminant sources, however the application must also comply with 4 other requirements.

Commentary:

401.4 item #2 references compliance with 501.2.1. 501.2.1 item #3 deals specifically with the termination of environmental air (which includes domestic dryers, bathroom exhaust and domestic kitchen exhaust). There is actually a conflict within the code stipulating the 10 foot separation

in 501.2.1 item #3 and 401.4.1 indicating that bathroom or kitchen exhaust from a residential dwelling not be

considered a hazardous or noxious contaminant and therefore potentially exempt from the 10 foot rule of 401.4.1.

The more stringent rule should apply. Thus, the environmental air exhaust must terminate a minimum of 10 feet from any mechanical ventilation intake location.

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.