



Informal Interpretation Report Number 7314



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Edition 2010

Section R4403.7.3.6.3

Question:

Is it the intent of the code for interior stair railings (inside the house communicating first and second floor) on residential (R3) to comply with laminated glazing for HVZ.

Answer

Yes, glazing must be laminated.

Commentary:

HVHZ Section R4403.7.3.6.3 allows laminated glazing as a substitute for pickets in railings, stair-railings and other similar safeguards. Clearly, interior stair-rail systems are not subject to wind loads, but must meet the linear and concentrated loads noted. Additionally, it is required that the laminated glazing be tested for kinetic energy impact in accordance with the ANSI Z97.1 test, using the 400 foot-pound procedure. In order to be deemed compliant, laminated glazing subjected to the kinetic energy test must remain in the supporting frame and may not suffer breakage, or allow a shear opening to occur through which a three inch in diameter sphere may freely pass.

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.