



Informal Interpretation Report Number 7332



Date June 13, 2014

Edition 2010

Section 601.4, Balanced Return

Question:

Is it the intent of 2010 FMC, Section 601.4, Exception #1 to apply the 1-1/2 times return duct cross sectional area when using transfer ducts only, or will a ducted return air systems also have to comply with this requirement?

Answer

The exception specifically states "Transfer ducts", so, this section applies to transfer ducts and not a return air system.

Commentary:

A transfer duct is typically not a "forced" air duct and the sizing should ensure a sufficiently low static pressure. If the air is being pulled by the system this sizing may not be required, depending on the design of the system.

FBC-M Section 603.2 (and related subsections) deals with the appropriate methods for sizing of ducts. The AHJ, if concerned with a specific design/installation, could require the submission of additional data to substantiate the design/installation. Further, the AHJ may also require information on the grille(s) installed to verify they are installed within the manufacturer's installation instructions (dealing with acceptable face velocity, etc). See FBC-M 603.17.

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.