Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7400

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Section 107.2.1.2

Question:

Is it the intent of the Florida Building Code section 107.2.1.2, to require a product evaluation for all roofing materials, including thatch "Palm frons"?

Answer

Yes, section 107.2.1.2 requires the construction documents to show how the roofing product meets all code requirements. This includes a product evaluation by the architect or engineer.

The exception to this is a chikee hut installed by Miccosukee or Seminole Tribe of Florida in compliance with the exception. This means only an unfinished floor, no electrical, mechanical or plumbing.

Commentary:

The product approval system developed by the state is a way for manufacturers to get their product evaluated one time and be recognized and possibly accepted through out the state. Product approval is solely the responsibility of the AHJ. The state product approval system is just one tool for the AHJ. So if the product does not have a FBC product approval number, there is an accepted process for the AHJ to review and approve a product.

Not sure if the requirement for product approval holds true for the use of natural thatch with a specific statement from the architect or engineer, this is up to the AHJ or may require a DEC statement. There are a number of manufactured "thatch" materials that simulate thatch. After

Andrew, there were a number of structures with thatch roofs that survived the winds. The wind simply blew through the thatch. Another issue may be the fire issue with natural thatch on an assembly occupancy.

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.