



Informal Interpretation Report Number 7443



Date January 26, 2015

Edition 2010

Section P2603.2.1

Question:

What is the intent of this section as it relates

to the following. During construction of a new single family residence, water supply lines were run vertically through a shallow monolithic slab and into a CMU concrete fill cell of the structure. The water lines service a cabana bath for the residence. After construction finished,

it was determined a nail had penetrated the waterline. After the homeowner moved into the dwelling, the nail rusted out/failed causing a water leak. During the investigation it was determined that the water supply line had been installed close to the exterior of the monolithic slab. The nail which penetrated the water line either during the button up process prior to the CMU bond beam pour or while an expansion joint was secured to the slab with nails prior to pouring the concrete pool deck.

Answer

To quote the IRC Commentary P2603.2.1, "This section is intended to minimize the possibility of drainage and water pipe damage caused by nails, screws, or other fasteners used to affix wall panels."

Commentary:

In the situation described, it may be good practice to attempt to locate the water lines away from the edge of the CMU, but this is not always practical. At any rate, there is no specific code requirement to protect piping installed within a block wall, nor should one be inferred.

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.