



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7458**



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Edition 2007

Section 503.2.9.1

Question:

This question is in regard to the 2010 Florida Energy Efficiency Volume, Section 503.2.9.1. The selection for the referenced code doesn't list this particular code. Does the note at the end of the section which states "Discharge dampers are prohibited on constant volume fans and variable volume fans with motors 10 horsepower and larger" prohibit the use of larger multi-zone air handling units that many times have motors exceeding 10hp?

Answer

Maybe, please see the attached commentary.

Commentary:

Traditionally, there were three time-honored ways to control VAV systems: discharge dampers, inlet vanes and variable frequency drives (VFD's).

The reliability and low cost of VFD's has virtually made discharge dampers and inlet vanes obsolete. The use of a discharge damper to balance a non-VAV air handler or a VAV air handler is a very inefficient way to accomplish the task. It is the intent of this paragraph to prohibit such an installation.

Any multizone unit that exists and continues to be in use may remain. If a new mutizone unit, as described (if they are even available any more) is installed, the use of discharge dampers would be prohibited, unless a device (such as a VFD) is also introduced so as to provide an efficient balancing mechanism.

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.