



Informal Interpretation Report Number 7474



Date March 23, 2015

Edition 2007

Section 4101.17.1.4

Question:

This Section indicates... "Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches (1143 mm), the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1 3/4 inches (44 mm) in width." Is it the intent of the code to indicate a 5-foot tri-rail, spear top fence is more climbable than a 4' flat top fence?

Answer

The answer is no , the code does not care if it is a 5 ft tri-rail or a 4 ft flat top, if the fence has both vertical and horizontal members, and the horizontal members are less than 45 inches apart, then the horizontal members are to be on the pool side of the fence, if this occurs the spacing of the vertical members cannot exceed 1 3/4 inches.

Commentary:

The building code section 104.11 allows the building official to make the call, if he deems it an acceptable alternative, meeting the intent.

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.