



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7479**



Date April 14, 2015

Edition 2010

Section R403

Question:

The building volume requires a 12" min. embedment of the footing, but does not state when that must be provided. wouldn't this be required only prior to the walls being constructed ?

Answer

The Code is very specific:

"All exterior footings shall be placed at least 12 inches below the undisturbed ground surface".

We used to allow for the phrase, below proposed final grade, but that has been deleted from the code. No credit is given for fill dirt and sod, unless approved by the AHJ.

Commentary:

The code also states, in part R403.1 ...Footings shall be supported on undisturbed natural soils "or engineered fill."

If the plan includes engineered placement of clean fill, including appropriate compaction and soil testing, as referenced and sealed by the design engineer, this may be acceptable. In the case of a flood zone where a LOMA or LOMR is being applied for, this is a critical step.

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.