



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7487**



Date April 29, 2015

Edition 2010

Section 1803

Question:

Is it the intent of FBC, Section 1803 to require a geotechnical investigation prior to extensive excavation under an existing structure when it is unknown whether pilings support the structure.

Answer

Yes. Please see the attached commentary for additional explanation.

Commentary:

The question refers to Residential and then asks specifically about the Building volume. Since it is not known if the question applies to a building which falls under the Building or Residential volume, we have assumed the questioner knows the proper volume to request under. See 1803.5.7 which does not give specifics on the type of investigation necessary - it makes reference to enough to "assess the potential consequences and address mitigation measures." This should be a written plan submitted as a part of the project.

Excavation near foundations is covered under 1804.1

The section in the Residential volume is R401.1

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.