



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7495**



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Edition 2010

Section 715

Question:

Is it the intent of this section not to allow discharge through a backwater valve when the fixture rims are substantially above the upstream manhole? Can a utility district require one in this situation, contrary to the code?

Answer

Yes, it is the intent of the section as that is exactly what it states.

Commentary:

However, the connection to a public sewer system is subject to a contractual agreement and under the control of the provider.

The purpose of a backwater valve is to protect fixtures from a backup of the public sewer. Only fixtures that are at a lower elevation than the next upstream manhole cover are at risk. Plumbing fixtures that are not subject to backflow are not permitted to discharge through a backwater valve. By limiting the fixtures that discharge through a backwater valve, you limit the amount of backup from any upstream fixtures when the public sewer is blocked. The valve will also be protected from excess wear and tear and failure from debris.

That being said, the public utility has the final word.

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.