



**Informal Interpretation Report  
Number 7539**



**Date** July 20, 2015

**Edition** 2010

**Section** 513.6

**Question:**

Is it the intent of FBC 2010 Mechanical 513.6, Pressurization method, to have the floor of fire origin, exhaust or remove smoke ? The last sentence of the Code section indicates " Maintenance of a tenable environment is not required in the smoke control zone of fire origin. ".

**Answer**

No, it is not the intent of this section to require exhaust.

**Commentary:**

The intent is to prevent the spread of smoke to other floors or exit paths by keeping the smoke in the zone of origin through pressure "differences". This may result from exhausting the space lower than surrounding spaces or increasing pressures in surrounding spaces. If the space is exhausted at the same time surrounding areas are pressurized, it is easy to exceed the maximum allowable door opening/closing forces per 513.6.2. So long as that force is not exceeded, internal exhaust and external pressurization could be combined.

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**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.