



Informal Interpretation Report Number 7549



Date August 03, 2015

Edition 2014

Section 1613 Earthquake Loads

Question:

Is it the intent of the code to have the earthquake design protocol in the code?

Answer

It is in the code due to using the International Building Code (IBC) as the base code. Generally, wind load calculations will exceed both the seismic and snow loads so this is not an issue.

The Preface contains words that say the seismic and snow loads "should not be utilized or enforced", yet the code says all buildings "shall be designed and constructed to resist the effects of earthquake motions..." the word shall denotes mandatory requirements.

Commentary:

While the Preface is part of the rule adopting the code, a Declaratory Statement may be needed to make certain design professionals, plans examiners, and inspectors are not in violation of the rules regulating their respective professions. That is a legal question best answered by the Florida Building Commission.

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.