



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7560**



Date August 01, 2015

Edition 2014

Section R403.2.4

Question:

Is it the intent of section R403.2.4 that new replacement air handlers in attics to be in compliance with section 405 and the conditions that are listed, or can an air handler in the attic be replaced without compliance with section R405 as long as the listed items are followed?

Answer

An existing attic installed air handler can be replaced in exactly the same location and the ONLY requirement that must be met is that matched equipment is required as specified in R101.4.7(2).

Commentary:

The section is saying air handling units may be installed in attics for new construction only when the performance path of Section 405 is used. When installing in attics, all four conditions of R403.2.4 must be met. The conditions are a Florida specific amendment which was the result of an agreement between the Florida Building Commission and the Florida Home Builders Association to resolve a rule challenge in the first edition of the code.

The first edition prohibited the installation of air handlers in attics outright. Not sure where the requirement that the unit be installed using the performance method originated, but it first showed up in the 2010 Edition.

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.