



Informal Interpretation Report Number 7574



Date August 20, 2015

Edition 2010

Section 513.3

Question:

In regards to Informal Interpretation Report Number 7540, which indicates " No, it is not the intent to use smoke bombs. ". If smoke is not to be used, how is the Fire Inspector able to determine that smoke has cleared in the allotted time of 13 minutes to see the exit sign from 20 feet away, per Fire Code criteria?

Answer

Ask the design engineer. It may not be the intent of the Code to require smoke bombs, but smoke bombs can certainly be used if the approved testing methodology employs them.

Commentary:

As a note - Smoke bombs do not provide the same hot smoke a fire does. Even if the test was done with smoke bombs and passed, it would not necessarily mean it would perform the same in a real fire.

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.