



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7598**



Date September 16, 2015

Edition 2010

Section 1618.4.1

Question:

1. Is it the intent of Section 1618.4.1 to require a guardrail in a three story nursing home at every window in the resident bedrooms on floors two and three that have window sill heights less than 42 inches? 2. Is it the intent of this section to require guardrails at all exterior windows that have sill heights less than 42 inches and are located over 30 inches above the grade?

Answer

It is the intent to require a safeguard unless an exception applies. It is Section 2411.5.1 which sends one to Section 1618.4 in the event the window sill is less than 36 inches; above the near walking surface and there is a drop of more than 4 inches on the exterior side of the window. Additionally, there are four applicable exceptions pertaining to Section 2411.5.1.

Commentary:

Should an exception not apply and a safeguard is required, laminated glazing may be used in lieu of pickets in the safeguard.

In the FBC 5th Edition (2014) the HVHZ requirements for safeguards in both Section 2411.5 and 1618.4 have been eliminated. As a railing may be made of laminate glazing, a fixed window of laminated glazing meeting the specified load requirements would comply. See 1618.4.6.3.

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.