Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7651

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Section 1004

Question:

Is it the intent of Section 1004 and table 1004.1.2 therein for it to be used as a gauge by local building or code compliance officials to determine and enforce the number of beds or guests permitted in any given hotel room of an existing Florida licensed and operating hotel?

Answer

No, 1004 is not to limit occupant load, but to calculate the means of egress requirements.

Commentary:

Table 1004.1.2 is the floor area per occupant (or in other words the maximum occupant load). It is the intent of Section 1004 to limit the number of occupants that may be assigned by the authority having jurisdiction for use in the computations required to establish the required means of egress. In particular, Section 1004.2 states, "...the occupant load...is permitted to be increased...provided that all other requirements of the code are also met...and the occupant load does not exceed one occupant per 7 square feet..."

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.