



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7657**



Date October 09, 2015

Edition 2014

Section 1013.2

Question:

We have a situation where a proposed walk is less than 30 inches above finished grade; however, the walk is separated/retained by a seatwall that has a finished height approximately 16" above the height of the sidewalk. In turn, the top of the seatwall exceeds 30 inches from top of wall (seat) down to the adjacent finish grade (behind the wall). we have been unable to locate any definitive guidance in regards to guardrails, seatwalls and adjacent grade. Should a seatwall (in excess of 30" above finished grade) be treated the same as a "walking surface" as defined in Chapter 10, Section 1013.2?

Answer

No, the code specifies a "walking surface".

Commentary:

The FBC-B measures the height of guards from walking surfaces. The FBC-R does call for the height of guards to be measured above the adjacent walking surface or adjacent fixed seating. (R312.1.2)

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.