Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7662

Date October 16, 2015

Edition 2014

Section 301.15

Question:

Is it the intent of code section 301.15, that all cities & counties under the FBC are to require an equipment wind load certification on all exterior mechanical equipment, such as condensers, package unit, fans, and pool heaters ?

Answer

Yes, FBC-R M1401.4 covers this for residential and FBC-M 301.15 covers wind resistance for other applications.

Whether or not a jurisdiction requires a permit, the contractor must provide properly rated and installed equipment in accordance with Code requirements.

Commentary:

While the request does not specifically address commercial or single family residential construction, the FBC-R does not have language identical to the FBC-M. When considering the mechanical provisions of the FBC-R, Section M1301.1 states: "Scope. The provisions of this chapter shall govern the installation of mechanical systems not specifically covered in other chapters applicable to mechanical systems. Installations of mechanical appliances, equipment and systems not addressed by this code shall comply with the applicable provisions of the Florida Building Code, Mechanical and the Florida Building Code, Fuel Gas." This section could invoke the requirements of FBC-M 301.15.

This question may have been generated due to section M1307.2.1 from the 2010 edition not being included in the 2014 edition. FBC-R 2010, M1307.2.1 Wind resistance.

Mechanical equipment, appliances and supports that are exposed to wind shall be designed and installed to resist the wind pressures on the equipment and the supports as determined in accordance with the Florida Building Code, Building.

As stated in the response, the removal of this section did not remove wind load requirements.

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.