Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7689

Date December 15, 2015

Edition 2014

Section 403

Question:

Is it the intent of 403.1.3 Potty Parity to prevent providing fixtures in excess of what table 403.1 requires to a men's toilet room, without providing additional fixtures at a 3:2 ratio in the women's toilet? A joint-use high school/community theater on a high school campus has been designed in compliance with Table 403.1 and 403.1.1 and the owner has requested an additional five (5) urinals for a total of 7 urinals and 2 water closets in the restroom. Will this also violate the 50% limit requirement of 419.2 for urinal substitution of water closets?

Answer

Yes. While it would be nice to say this is based solely on the "required", the code states the number of fixtures

"provided" not the number of fixtures "required". After all,

the reason the potty parity law was enacted was because of

the long waits for the facilities for women at large venues

like stadiums, concert halls and the like.

Commentary:

Statutory excerpt that creates the Code requirement: ... "In

assembly occupancies, restrooms which are open to the public must have a ratio of 3:2 water closets provided for women as the combined total of water closets and urinals provided for men," ...

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.