



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7747**



Date April 08, 2016

Edition 2014

Section 453.17.7

Question:

Is it the intent of Section 453.17.7 to require that a playground shade structure which is part of a public educational facility be evaluated using the Risk Assessment Guide in NFPA 780 and other standards which address lightning protection?

Answer

It would not appear the intent is to provide the protection for a playground play structure unlikely to be occupied when lightning is a threat. However, while it seems extreme, strictly speaking the section does not provide any qualifiers. The code defines facility as

"FACILITY. All or any portion of buildings, structures, site improvements, elements and pedestrian or vehicular routes located on a site."

This question to be referred to the Building Official of the jurisdiction. Other factors, such as lightning detection systems and whether or not the area is considered to be a high lightning risk area as defined in NFPA 780 may be factors.

Commentary:

None

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.