



Informal Interpretation Report Number 7753



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Edition 2014

Section 312.5

Question:

Is it a requirement of the Florida Building Code - Plumbing that the piping system be isolated from a pressurized supply in to be pressure tested? The City water supply is available and can be connected in order to pressurize the system.

Answer

No, not necessarily. The test of the water supply system requires only that the system be subjected to "working pressure" by the code. This requirement is met in most cases when connecting directly to the city water supply. In such a situation, adequate pressure can be verified by the inspector opening a valve or hose bibb. The use of a pressure gauge, while valuable, is not required. When using water, evidence of leakage can be verified visually, either by a pressure gauge or by the presence of leaking water. If performing an air test, however, the system must be isolated and a gauge installed, as air leakage is not visible. There are advantages to keeping continuous pressure on during construction, as any subsequent damages can be quickly identified and repaired.

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.