



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7763**



Date May 20, 2016

Edition 2014

Section SECTION R312

Question:

Is it the intent of SECTION 312 to require guard rails on walkways to boathouses? Is the 30" above grade the high water level or the actual ground below the water?

Answer

The FBC Residential volume does not address handrails or guards on docks. R312.1.1 states that GUARDS are to measured vertically from the floor or GRADE. Chapter 2 Definitions states that GRADE is the finished ground level adjoining the building at all exterior walls. So, unless your municipality has a local ordinance regarding dock railings, this section of the FBC does not apply.

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.