



Informal Interpretation Report Number 7765



Date May 20, 2016

Edition 2014

Section 3015

Question:

We wish to build a canopy shade structure over a public school playground. The Building Department is asking us to install lightning protection with air terminals either glued to the fabric or poking out through holes, which is not doable according to the manufacturer. We have a sealed letter from an engineer establishing that shade structures like canopies fall under the code mentioned above and do not require lightning protection because the fabric has been treated and does not ignite.

Answer

The code for public education facilities at 453.17.7 calls for an evaluation of the need for lightning protection per NFPA 786 in high lightning risk areas. Presumably, the evaluation will determine whether the protection is needed or not.

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.