



Informal Interpretation Report Number 7790



Date July 18, 2016

Edition 2014

Section 2508

Question:

Is it the intent of the FBC, as it references GA-216 in Table 2508.1 (GA-216 specifically prohibits the use of 1/2" Soffit Board to be installed to trusses 24"OC), to prohibit the use of 1/2" Soffit Board on 24" OC in exterior installations? Could this be done as described if designed by a Florida Registered Engineer?

Answer

"Gypsum Board shall not be used where there will be direct exposure to water or continuous high humidity." Per 2508.2. An alternate is to use gypsum sheathing installed per ASTM C 1280. So the answer is "yes" it is prohibited.

Commentary:

It is the intent to prohibit Gypsum Board outdoors as is regulated by GA-216. 2508.2 Soffit Board is usually a form of Gypsum Sheathing. Gypsum Sheathing is installed per ASTM C 1280 and the manufacturer's approved instructions. Maximum framing spacing regardless of wind load must comply with manufacturer's installation instructions. If a Product Approval or ICC Evaluation Report is not available regarding wind loads, an engineer can design the Assembly that includes the Soffit Board.

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.