



Informal Interpretation Report Number 7800



Date August 05, 2016

Edition 2014

Section 706.2

Question:

Section 706.2 of the 2014 Florida Building Code states Fire walls shall have sufficient structural stability under fire conditions to allow collapse of construction on either side without collapse of the wall for the duration of time indicated by the required fire-resistance rating or shall be constructed as double fire walls in accordance with NFPA 221. There is a single fire wall separating a parking garage from immediately adjacent construction; the fire wall is part of the garage construction. Would we meet the requirements of Section 706.2 if the wall was braced by intermediate floor or roof members designed to withstand a fire duration of at least the rating of the fire wall?

Answer

No per BOAF Interpretation #7706 (1/19/2016).
The question is a little fancier, but basically the same question as asked in Report 7706. If the floor bracing the wall weakens or collapses, the wall may fail. The wall must remain in place and act as a firewall for the entire duration of the rating of the wall. The answer is still No.

Commentary:

If the bracing and attachment were all designed as "the wall" and the assembly met the required fire rating for the fire wall, it is not clear can't see why this would not be an alternate design. Perhaps this should be up to the AHJ.

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.