



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7837**



Date September 30, 2016

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Section 601.5

Question:

Is it the intent of 601.50 to disallow the use of dampers in return grills for the purpose of test and balance?

Answer

No

Commentary:

FBC Mechanical 601.5 requires only balanced return air and constrains the design to ensure that pressure differentials across closed doors are no greater than 0.01 inches of water column. If the design includes return grilles that are properly sized, with dampers, so as to limit the pressure differential to the Code-mandated 0.01 inches of water column, dampers are, of course, allowed.

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.