Informal Interpretation Report
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Section R202

Question:

If a space is designed to meet all requirements of the definition for "Attic, habitable" is that space counted as a story when quantifying the number of stories within a building?

Answer

No, the definition in the Residential volume of the Florida Building Code is very specific. A space that meets the definition of Attic, Habitable is not considered a story by definition. If the space falls outside ANY of the criteria found in the definition, then it is a story.

Commentary:

This is not a contradiction in the code, it is a specific definition. The area of a habitable attic that is permitted by the definition to be not counted as a story may not exceed any of the qualifying requirements. If the area is larger, it may considered a story. If any of the 3 three requirements are not met, it will be considered a story.

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.