



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 7857**



Date November 03, 2016

Edition 2010

Section 1103

Question:

Is it the intent of this section to allow the existing heights of stair rails and guardrails to remain in historic buildings when modifications to the stair rails and landing railings would be damaging to the contributing historic features?

Answer

It is not clear why the FBC 2010 is cited in the question, as this sounds like a new project. There is little detail to recommend allowing the continuation of an element which may pose a risk to the health and safety of building occupants. In reviewing Appendix B to the FBC-EB, you do not find provisions or exceptions for stair railings. There is insufficient information provided to give a considered answer. For example, is the difference in rail height an inch? 12 inches? Are the stairs required egress stairs? This is totally within the purview of the Building Official.

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.