



Informal Interpretation Report Number 7864



Date November 14, 2016

Edition 2014

Section 501.3.2

Question:

Is it the intent of the code to allow a flapper/damper and screen protection for a residential wall cap (mechanical Ventilation)

Answer

The answer is "PROBABLY." The request does not state whether the exhaust is bathroom, kitchen, or clothes dryer. The referenced section says nothing about flappers or dampers, It addresses screens. Section 504.4 mandates a backdraft damper and prohibits screens at the termination.

Commentary:

While 501.3.2 refers to a commercial application, residential occupancies not covered by the residential volume fall within this category. If the issue relates to a One or Two Family Dwelling, the wall cap duct termination would be section M1506.2 of the residential code. This section then sends you to 303.6 Outside Opening Protection: ... shall be protected with screens louvers or grilles ...opening shall be protected against local weather conditions... based on this, the answer is yes if the flapper purpose is weather protection for that residential application.

Note: No screen allowed in a dryer application

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.