



Informal Interpretation Report Number 7952



Date July 27, 2017

Edition 2004

Section 2603

Question:

Paragraph 2603.4 provides requirements for how Foam-Plastic Insulation may be used inside of a building as a thermal barrier.

Question 1: When all of the requirements in Paragraph 2603.4 are applied, is it the intent to permit the use of Foam-Plastic insulation inside of an interior wall of a fully sprinklered building of any type of construction?

Question 2: Is it the intent that the requirements in this section, 2303.4, be applied only to foam-plastic material located on the outside of a building such as EIFS?

Question 3: If the EIFS material has a flame spread rating of 25 or less, must it still be encapsulated in accordance with section 2603.4 when used inside of a fully sprinklered building?

Answer

Question 1: No. The referenced sections do not address interior walls. However, if the interior wall finish meets the requirements for a thermal barrier, it may be possible depending on the required type of construction of the building.

Question 2: 2303.4 addresses trusses and has nothing to do with foam plastic. Section 2603.4.1.4 addresses exterior walls of one story buildings and Section 2603.5 addresses exterior walls of any height. The answer to the question is no.

Question 3: EIFS is an exterior system and I do not see how it can be used inside a building. However, any foam plastic insulation is required to be separated from the building interior by appropriate thermal barrier meeting the provisions of Section 2603.4 unless special approval per Section 2603.8 is granted. One story buildings may meet the reduced provisions of Section 2603.4.1.4, but the foam plastic is limited to a maximum of 4 inches in thickness and it still must be covered thickness of not less than 0.032-inch-thick or corrosion-resistant steel having a base metal thickness of 0.0160 inch the building is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1.

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.