



Informal Interpretation Report Number 8066



Date February 15, 2018

Edition 2017

Section 502.5 Clearance for maintenance and replacement

Question:

Does the installation of a washing machine directly in front of an electric water heater such that the washing machine must be disconnected and removed from the room in which it is installed in order to be able to inspect, maintain, or replace the water heater, comply with the requirements of section 502.5?

Answer

No. Section 502.5 requires appliances (i.e. water heaters) to be provided with access "without disabling the function of . . . other appliances or any other piping or ducts not connected the appliance being inspected, serviced, repaired or replaced." According to the Commentary, disconnecting other appliances or piping could result in their improper reinstallation (or no reinstallation) after the service work has been done. Additionally, 502.5 also requires a level working space not less than 30 inches x 30 inches in front of the control side of the water heater for servicing.

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.