



Informal Interpretation Report Number 8090



Date March 15, 2018

Edition 2017

Section 324

Question:

I am requesting interpretation of the application of the Florida Building Code Residential 2017 6th edition Chapter 3, Section 324 and the NFPA 1 Fire code Section 11.12.2.2.1. Both code sections address Rooftop mounted photovoltaic solar arrays on residential structures. The FBC makes no reference to requiring setbacks as stated in NFPA 1. It does reference the Florida Fire Code and NFPA-70 the National Electric Code. Other states either adopt it by reference or in text or dont require it at all. My question is should we be using the FBC residential building code 324 in the design of rooftop solar? If not which code should we use in design? Is there a document stating which code should be used? Name of the document.

Answer

Keep in mind that single family dwellings are not exempt from the FFPC. They are only exempt from the NFPA 101 portion of the FFPC. In addition, they are exempt from plan review by Fire unless there is a local ordinance. Now, that does not mean the contractor does not have to comply with the FFPC PV design elements. While Building Department Personnel enforce the FBC/FRC, that does not relieve the contractor from compliance with the FFPC.

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.