



Informal Interpretation Report Number 8101



Date April 03, 2018

Edition 2017

Section R318.7

Question:

Specific to masonry exterior wall applications, is it the intent of FRC to require 6-inch inspection clearance between 2-part stucco veneer and grade? Assuming no exceptions apply...

Answer

The code appears to be very clear on when and where these clearances are required. The code, being a minimum compliance document, does not prohibit larger areas for the inspection and monitoring. While it may be advisable to ensure an inspection area is visible, the code requires the following:

R318.7 Inspection for termites. In order to provide for inspection for termite infestation, clearance between exterior wall coverings and final earth grade on the exterior of a building shall not be less than 6 inches (152 mm).

Exceptions:

1. Paint or decorative cementitious finish less than 5/8 inch (17.1 mm) thick adhered directly to the masonry foundation sidewall.
2. Access or vehicle ramps which rise to the interior finish floor elevation for the width of such ramps only.
3. A 4-inch (102 mm) inspection space above patio and garage slabs and entry areas.
4. If the patio has been soil treated for termites, the finish elevation may match the building interior finish floor elevations on masonry construction only.
5. Masonry veneers constructed in accordance with Section R318.4.

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.