



Informal Interpretation Report Number 8103



Date April 10, 2018

Edition 2017

Section 607.3

Question:

Is it the intent of the Florida Plumbing Code to deviate from the International Plumbing Code and allow devices other than expansion tanks for thermal expansion control?

Answer:

Yes. During the 2015 IPC code change cycle, this section was modified to eliminate all other forms of thermal expansion protection except thermal expansion tanks. In the following 2018 cycle, however, this section was corrected to read "thermal expansion control device", restoring a wider range of options. During the development of the 2017 Sixth Edition of the FBC-P, the Florida Building Commission adopted the language of the 2018 IPC, which provides for a greater range of thermal expansion options.

On 04/10/2018 at 1:58 PM

Commentary:

Chapter 553 f.s. does not allow for the FBC to be discriminatory against materials products, or construction techniques of demonstrated capabilities. There are a number of listed devices to address thermal expansion. Other state rules regarding thermal expansion protection in areas of reclaimed water use required the municipal water purveyor to provide this protection. The use of an externally installed thermal expansion relief valve has advantages in relation to cost and access for maintenance.

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.