



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 8175**



Date October 24, 2018

Edition 2017

Section R403.1 (506.2.4)

Question:

Is it the intent of Section 506.2.4 that synthetic fiber in concrete slab allows for deletion of (2) rows 36" wide strips of WWF at Footing D of the attached drawing in section 403.1

Answer

It is up to the design professional to determine if fiber mesh concrete can replace welded wire mesh. the Building code only provides minimums it is not a design manual. The intent of this section is to provide direction as to when the design professional can substitute mesh for wire at contraction joints.

Commentary:

The two methods are different. WWF is intended to hold the concrete together when there is cracking. Fibers are intended to prevent cracking and do little to hold the concrete together when cracks occur. There are fiber mixes that include different fibers allowing both functions to be satisfied. The double strip is for light frame construction that counts on the weight of the slab to resist uplift and overturning. The WWF is doubled to counter the tendency for thickened edge footings to crack at the juncture of the thickened edge and the slab. The FBC-R is intended to be a prescriptive document not requiring the input from a registered design professional. Deviation from the detail would require the input of a registered design professional. A combination fiber which prevents cracking and holds together when cracking does occur could be specified by a registered design professional.

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.