



Informal Interpretation Report Number 8190



Date October 24, 2018

Edition 2010

Section 1503.4.2.1.

Question:

Is it the intent of 1503.4.2.1 Overflow scuppers to be installed 2"-4" above the primary roof drain/scupper height?

Answer

A qualified, yes. The cited section of the code does not indicate placement of the overflow scupper as 2"-4" above the primary roof drain/scupper, as reflected in the question. Instead, the code section indicates 2"-4" above the "finished roof covering". Nevertheless, other sections of the building code must also be in compliance.

According to Chapter 1611, FBC, B, "Each portion of a roof shall be designed to sustain the load of rainwater that will accumulate on it if the primary drainage system for that portion is blocked, plus the uniform load caused by water that rises above the inlet of the secondary drainage system at its design flow..." Overflow scupper size, flow rate and hydraulic head must be established in order to calculate the design rain load. Consequently, the placement of the overflow scupper may be the determining factor in establishing the structural capacity of the deck.

Roof drainage design is complicated and made more so by requirements not being found in a single location in the Florida Building Code (FBC), instead provisions are found in Chapter 15 and 16 (FBC, B) and Chapter 11 (FBC, P) as well as in ASCE 7. As a result, one must look to all relevant code sections to adequately address roof drainage requirements. Additionally, multi-discipline collaboration between the Architect, Structural Engineer, Mechanical/Plumbing Engineer, the plumbing contractor and the roofing contractor is also necessary.

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.