



Informal Interpretation Report Number 8199



Date January 18, 2019

Edition 2017

Section 406.2

Question:

Inspector states I must drain washing machine in 3" stack.

Answer:

Although your request is not stated as a question the inspector is incorrect. The code states: "The trap and fixture drain for an automatic clothes washer standpipe shall be not less than 2 inches (51 mm) in diameter. The fixture drain for the standpipe serving an automatic clothes washer shall connect to a 3-inch (76 mm) or larger diameter fixture branch or stack." The IPC 2015 Code Commentary states: "A fixture drain is the section of pipe that connects the outlet weir of a trap to a stack, fixture branch or any other drain. A fixture drain conveys the discharge of only a single trap and consists of both horizontal and vertical sections of pipe. A fixture drain ends at the point where the discharge from any other fixture is introduced." The installation you describe complies with the code section as the fixture drain extends to the 3" horizontal piping. If for instance you installed a fixture drain for a laundry sink in the same room on a common vented waste stack with the washer drain, the stack would be required to be 3" at the point of connection of the second fixture drain. This appears to be a common misinterpretation by inspectors as the definition of a fixture drain must be considered.

On 01/18/2019 at 1:42 PM

Commentary:

Although it is increasingly common practice to connect the 2-inch washing machine fixture drain to a 3-inch vertical stack, the code does not specifically require this. The fixture drain may remain 2-inch until it becomes a fixture branch, that is, at the point which it combines with another fixture drain.

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.