



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 8433**



Date July 29, 2020

Edition 2017

Section 403.3.6

Question:

I see the mechanical code allows up to 20' from the access point but the energy code book states not more than 6' from point of access to the service panel. I recently had a question about which code is the proper one to enforce. The home in question is a newly constructed home and meets all the new energy requirements. Which code supersedes the other, mechanical or energy?

Answer:

Which ever is more restrictive. In this case it is the FBC-Energy, R403.3.6.

Please make sure if this is a Residence that falls under the FBC-Residential that you are looking at Section M1305.1.3

Energy, R403.3.6. does not allow the air handler in the attic if using prescriptive method. In order to allow the installation of the air handler in the attic within 6 feet of the attic access there are 4 conditions to be met. Further, R403.3.6 does allow the installation of the air handler in the attic when complying under Section 405 (Performance) and the 4 conditions listed therein are all met.

On 07/29/2020 at 8:06 AM

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.