



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 8466**



Date October 26, 2020

Edition 2017

Section 712.1.9

Question:

Is condition #2 in section 712.1.9 prohibiting a floor opening between two stories from penetrating a horizontal assembly that separates fire areas in conflict with condition #1 in section 1019.3 allowing an unprotected opening between two stories for an unenclosed exit access stair?

Answer

No, Not in conflict, you have to maintain the appropriate ratings and penetrations of the "Fire Area" separation. Section 1019.3 gives allowances for exit access stairways and ramps. Chapter 7 is the more specific code criteria where you have specific rating protection requirements. Especially between fire areas.

Commentary:

Item 2 of Section 712.1.9 would prevent the open stair between two stories if the two stories were separate fire areas or the floor assembly served as a smoke barrier or part of the separation of smoke compartments. If the two stories made up a single fire area, there would be no problem with the open exit stair provided all other conditions were met.

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.