



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 8494**



Date December 18, 2020

Edition 2017

Section M1602.2 (4)

Question:

Is the room or space where an air handling unit (nonfuel-fired mechanical equipment) is located in a building regulated by the 6th and 7th edition FBC-R considered a "mechanical room"?

If Yes, is the return of the air handling unit then required to be ducted out of such room or space so that no return air is taken from the "mechanical room" to be in accordance with M1602.2 (4)?

Answer

Please refer to Section R201.3 and R201.4 where terms are not defined in the residential code, refer to the other FBC volumes for definition. If they are not found "such terms shall have ordinarily accepted meanings such as the context implies." The FBC Mechanical code defines Mechanical Equipment/appliance room. So a mechanical room would be a room that houses the HVAC system for that structure.

Saying that - is a residential HVAC closet a room? No. Regarding one and two-family dwellings, a closet or room containing an air handler is not considered a mechanical room.

The purpose of 16.2.2(4) is to prevent locations that contain contaminants to be used for return air.

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.