



Informal Interpretation Report Number 8558



Date September 13, 2021

Edition 2021

Section 1709.5 Exception

Question:

I need clarification on the code 1709.5 Exception for custom iron doors. I design and make custom one of a kind iron doors by hand for clients in Florida and we have made our custom iron doors for the last 11 years. We make them in all different sizes, shapes, and designs,. We make each and every door custom. We do not make doors to stock and just resell. Each door is designed individually, uniquely and manufactured by hand out of tubular steel and welded together. We offer 30+ custom handles for our doors, but again we can tweak anything since everything is custom. Doors that we make that need glass or glazing, have 1" thick triple pane hurricane rated glass to satisfy the requirements of the code and to be hurricane rated. We have a Florida Engineer that has reviewed the construction of our doors and has created stamped and sealed drawings for our different sized doors. When we make a door, even if we made two doors that were similar, you could not switch the doors leafs on the doors as each door is specific to the door and jamb we manufacture for each unit. We want to have clarification that the code section 1709.5 Exception applies to our doors that we design, create and manufacture and that our Stamped, Signed and Sealed Engineered Rational Analysis is being properly used for our custom Hurricane rated iron doors.

Answer

The Exception contained in section 1709.5 allows the use of custom one-of-a-kind doors that are designed and engineered using accepted engineering practices, performed by a Florida Registered Design Professional that submits signed and sealed copies of rational analysis and calculations. The rational analysis and calculations are to be made separately for each and every individual custom door not just for different door sizes from one manufacturer.

Commentary:

At the time, this code section was adopted specifically to deal with the described situation, custom (one-of-a-kind) doors. Although the doors in question at that time were made of rare imported wood, it applies to all doors in the category. The code section specifically states such doors may be designed and engineered per accepted engineering practice. Separate analysis is required for each door or set of doors.

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.