



Informal Interpretation Report Number 8583



Date November 01, 2021

Edition 2021

Section Definition

Question:

Is it the intent of the FBC - Building to determine a canopy as structurally independent even if it is supported by attachment to a building on one or more sides?

CANOPY. A permanent structure or architectural projection of rigid construction over which a covering is attached that provides weather protection, identity or decoration. A canopy is permitted to be structurally independent or supported by attachment to a building on one or more sides.

Answer

No. The definition states "A canopy is permitted to be structurally independent OR supported by attachment to a building on one or more sides" (emphasis added). This allows for a canopy to be structurally independent or structurally dependent as in attached to a building. This code section does not imply or infer that a canopy is considered independent even if it is supported by attachment to a building. The intermingling of the concepts of structurally independent and attached to a building is not contemplated by this code section.

With that said, a canopy could be attached to a building and be structurally independent by the use of a fourth wall arrangement. If the attachment to the building relies on that attachment for support, it is not structurally independent.

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.