



Informal Interpretation Report Number 8612



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Section 604.3

Question:

is it the intent of section 604.3 water distribution system design criteria , that under conditions of peak demand means one fixture from table 604.3 operating independently equates to the defining of peak demand

Answer

No. The purpose of Table 604.3 is to provide design criteria for the sizing of water distribution systems.

Commentary:

Knowledge of a fixture's flow rate is necessary to determine friction loss. The Table is not intended to serve as a field test for peak demand.

The code does not define peak water demand. It is unrealistic to assume all fixtures to be operating at the same time. According to Section 604.1, the design of the water distribution system shall conform to "accepted engineering practice." One commonly used method can be found in Appendix E, which lists load factors for various fixtures, expressed in water supply fixture units (wsfu). The total wsfu's are then converted to flow rates in gallons per minute, and applied to a chart to determine friction loss.

According to the IPC Commentary, the wsfu method may not provide suitable results for projects with very high or very low water demands. IAPMO has developed a downloadable Water Demand Calculator that accurately predicts peak water demand in single-family and apartment buildings.

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.