Informal Interpretation Report
Number 8708

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Section 803.2.3.1 and 301.1.1

Question:

Are "shiners" considered a code violation in reference to residential homes and roof deck nailing.

Answer

It is not a violation as long as other properly embedded fasteners were provided per the approved fastening schedule. The best way for an inspector to verify compliance is to view these fasteners from the top of the deck or other acceptable method of verifying the decking is secure. With that said, it has been standard practice to remove shiners or bend them over (Clinch) so that they will not work there way thru the roofing material creating a leak later.

Commentary:

The Florida Building Code section 2304.10.2 requires that sheathing nails or other approved sheathing connectors to be driven so that their head or crown is flush with the surface of the sheathing. Protruding nails that are not fully driven do not provide the intended connecting capacity and could be hazardous. Likewise, nails that are overdriven into structural sheathing may not perform as expected.
Further, while the term "shiner" is not referenced in the FBC Building or Residential volumes, it is looked at as a missed fastener. As each AHJ may complete a roof, and even a wall sheathing inspection a little different, most walk the interior first to see if there are any misses (shiners), then have the framer remove (hammer the shiner back); then once on the exterior you can clearly determine if the shiner is a miss or not. If you simply go to the exterior, it can be nearly impossible to determine if all fasteners are actually imbedded into the framing members. Ultimately this is "standard practice" idea, but inspections are to confirm code compliancy, and ultimately a shiner is a miss.

Notice:
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