Informal Interpretation Report
Number 8811

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Section R303.3

Question:

Is it the intent of Section R303.3 Exception to require the bathroom exhaust air to be exhausted to the outdoors?

Answer

See also interpretation #8555. The Exception to R303.3, FBC - Residential states the glazed areas (an operable window) shall not be required where artificial light and a local exhaust system are provided. The minimum local exhaust rates shall be determined in accordance with Section M1507. Exhaust air from the space shall be exhausted directly to the outdoors.
The last sentence in the exception clearly states that it shall be exhausted directly to the outdoors. The soffit would not be the outdoors.

Commentary:

Outdoor discharge is further explained in Chapter 15 of the Residential volume.
M1501.1 Outdoor discharge.
The air removed by every mechanical exhaust system shall be discharged to the outdoors in accordance with Section M1506.3. Air shall not be exhausted into an attic, soffit, ridge vent or crawl space.

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.