



Informal Interpretation Report Number 8821



Date August 30, 2023

Edition 2021

Section 403.3.1.1

Question:

Do car repair garages need to have the space exhausted at a rate of 0.75 CFM/sqft when in use even when there are approved tail pipe exhaust systems and CO/NO₂ sensors in the space?

Answer

Yes, Repair Garages which are enclosed and sealed because comfort cooling is provided still require exhaust at the rate found in Table 403.3.1.1, must be capable of exhausting .75 CFM/Sq ft. and makeup air would also be required per 403.1.

However, 403.2 does allow a registered design professional to design a system where the ventilation system will vary exhaust and supply ventilation to lower CFM's when the concentration of contaminants is at acceptable levels. A design professional can use an NO and CO detector under 403.2 to control ventilation to acceptable levels. This design would save energy, protect the employees, and also meet the intent of C403.2.6.2 of the energy code.

Commentary:

The exhaust rate indicated in Table 403.3.1.1 ventilation rate, and 502.14- the Source capture containment system are 2 separate requirements in the Mechanical code. The designer would need to meet both requirements if the source capture system is applicable. The NO and CO is only for parking garages 404. This is because a person is normally only in the parking garage for a short period of time while walking to the stairs or the elevator. A person working in a repair garage is normally in the space for their working shift. The exhaust requirement in Table 403.3.1.1 is also for all the dangerous fumes chemicals and associated dusts in the repair garage.

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.