



Informal Interpretation Report Number 8858



Date February 23, 2024

Edition 2023

Section 1014.7

Question:

Code conflict with higher or equivalent codes and laws are creating substantial design and rework challenges.

Can FBC update to match OSHA and NFPA 101?

FBC 7th & 8th Ed. - 1014.7 requires 1.5" clearance.

29 CFR 1910.29(f)(2) Finger clearance. The minimum clearance between handrails and any other object is 2.25 inches (5.7 cm).

NFPA 101 2018Ed. & 2024Ed. - 7.2.2.4.5.5 - New handrails shall be installed to provide a clearance of not less than 2 1/4 in. (57 mm) between the handrail and the wall to which it is fastened.

Answer:

The more stringent applies. 2.25"

On 02/23/2024 at 8:58 AM

Commentary:

The FBC states the following - 1014.7 Clearance. Clear space between a handrail and a wall or other surface shall be not less than 1 1/2 (1.5) inches (38 mm). A handrail and a wall or other surface adjacent to the handrail shall be free of any sharp or abrasive elements. The Florida Building Commission has stated that this is not a conflict and that the more stringent of the two - FBC and NFPA 101 shall rule. The harmonization of both codes was once tried and never got accomplished because of issues like this. There is also language in the statutes that say the more stringent of the codes will apply to address this type of issue. So, you need to read ALL applicable codes for your project . . .

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.