



Informal Interpretation Report Number 9150



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Section 503.3

Question:

Is the 5% referenced in section 503.3 (also similar sections in chapter 7,8,9) intended to apply to an individual gravity load category i.e. dead or live separately or as a total gravity load i.e. dead+live? It is noted Florida revised the wording of this section from the 2021 IEBC, why was this revised? The 2021 IEBC original wording appears to imply individual load case increase is limited to 5% which would be more restrictive. As an example, for roof framing assumed to be designed for 10 psf dead load and 20 psf roof live load the individual gravity load case interpretation would limit the increase to 0.5 psf where as the total load would allow up to 1.5 psf increase. The total load interpretation could be considered equivalent to "stress increase" or ""demand to capacity ratio" assuming ASD design and a Dead + Live design load combination.

Answer

While live loads & dead loads are typically derived individually, the increased load on a existing structural element would be collective where those elements are affected by an alteration.

Commentary:

None.

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.