



Informal Interpretation Report Number 9472



Date December 15, 2025

Edition 2023

Section 710.8

Question:

1. Are "duct penetration" and "air transfer opening" two different things?
2. For "smoke partitions", does a "duct penetration" requires a "smoke damper"?

Answer

1. No, they are not the same. "Duct penetrations" refers to ducts passing through a building component (such as walls, partitions, ceilings, etc.) and "Air transfer openings" refers to openings in building components designed to allow air passage, which may even be a framed opening without a door.
2. Yes, a duct penetration through a rated partition requires protection. An air transfer opening in a smoke partition will also require some type of protection.

Florida Building Code (Building), 8th Edition Section 710.8 Ducts and air transfer openings.

The space around a duct penetrating a smoke partition shall be filled with an approved material to limit the free passage of smoke. Air transfer openings in smoke partitions shall be provided with a smoke damper complying with Section 717.3.2.2.

Exception: Where the installation of a smoke damper will interfere with the operation of a required smoke control system in accordance with Section 909, approved alternative protection shall be utilized.

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.