



Informal Interpretation Report Number 9525



Date May 14, 2026

Edition 2023

Section 702.6

Question:

Would this apply to changing an existing building's total a/c system cooling capacity in total capacity or cooling capacity per a/c system such as rearrangement of capacity per system to total the old tonnage. If the rearrangement were to take an existing building with 3-5 ton units and they want to place 2-6 ton and 1-3-ton units and provide new equipment load calcs?

Answer

To the question, no, 702.6 is for like for like change outs. The work described based on limited information in the inquiry meets the requirements of Level 2 Alterations under Chapter 8.

Commentary:

The requirements of the Florida Building Code, Existing Building (FBC, EB), Chapter 8, governing Alterations – Level 2, is the appropriate regulatory path for the scope of work described. This is particularly applicable when the project involves reconfiguring the air conditioning system in a manner that affects the delivery of outdoor air to the conditioned spaces.

Under the (FBC, EB), a Level 2 Alteration triggers compliance not only with Chapter 8 but also with the provisions of Alteration Level 1 found in Chapter 7. As a result, projects classified as Level 2 must satisfy both levels of requirements.

In summary, the Existing Building Code directs the design professional to compliance with sections of the FBC Mechanical, FBC Energy Conservation and FBC Building.

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.