



Informal Interpretation Report Number 9534



Date May 20, 2026

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Section 102.2

Question:

Are Docks to be reviewed, permitted and inspected for compliance with the FBC?

Answer

Docks are not exempted from the Florida Building Code under Section 102.2. They are defined as structures, typically supported by piles, served by stairs or ramps, and used to access floating vessels or exiting from recreational water features. If located within a navigable waterway, docks may also be subject to review and approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Furthermore, dock utilization is regulated under Section 454.1.11.4 of the Florida Building Code, Building (governing artificial lagoons and surf pools), as well as the Florida Building Code, Accessibility Volume, for recreational boating facilities.

Commentary:

Docks and piers that are in floodways shown on FIRMs should be reviewed for floodway encroachment (see your local floodplain management regulations). Electrical requirements and the electrical datum plane needs to be reviewed as well.

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.