



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 9558**



Date July 28, 2026

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Section Section 1609.1.2 "Protection of openings. Exceptions"

Question:

Can 7/16ths inch plywood and OSB be used as hurricane shutter panel both in, and out, of the HVHZ if properly installed according to Section 1609.1.2 "Protection of openings. Exceptions"?

Answer

Maybe. For areas outside of the HVHZ, the correct reference for a structure designed under the Florida Building Code - Residential volume is R301.2.1.2. This section provides the requirements for protection of openings. For the HVHZ, when referring to Chapter 44 of the FBC-R, there are numerous references to the FBC-B, including chapter 16 for structural loads. Both volumes contain the allowance for properly installed wood panels for opening protection.

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.