DATE: September 9, 2017

TO: All Building Officials

FROM: James DiPietro, Administrative Director

SUBJECT: Recessed Ceiling Air Handlers

At its regular meeting of October 12, 2017, the Board of Rules and Appeals approved an interpretation of the following 6th Edition (2017) Florida Building Codes:

1. FBC, Energy Conservation, Sections C501.7 and R501.7.

   **Building systems and components.** Thermal efficiency standards are set for the following building systems and components where new products are installed or replaced in existing buildings, and for which a permit must be obtained. New products shall meet the minimum efficiencies allowed by this code for the following systems and components:

   - Heating, ventilating or air-conditioning systems;
   - Service water or pool heating systems;
   - Lighting systems; and
   - Replacement fenestration.

   **Exceptions:***

   4. Replacement equipment that would require extensive revisions to other systems, equipment or elements of a building where such replacement is a like-for-like replacement, such as through-the-wall condensing units and PTACs, chillers and cooling towers in confined spaces.

**Formal Interpretation:**

The replacement of existing Recessed Ceiling Air Handlers that will require the alteration of building walls; as determined by the Building Official or his or her representative, qualifies under the exception 4 to the FBC Energy Conservation 6th Edition section C501.7 and R501.7. As a consequence this application needs not meet the minimum SEER required in Section C303.2.3 and Table R405.5.2(1) of said Code as long as the replacement is a “like for like” as stated in the above Exception.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** June 30, 2015

**RE-ISSUED:** October 12, 2017

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2018

****PLEASE POST AT YOUR PERMIT COUNTER****