



BROWARD COUNTY BOARD OF RULES AND APPEALS

1 N. University Drive, Suite 3500B
Plantation, FL 33324

Phone: 954-765-4500
Fax: 954-765-4504

broward.org/CodeAppeals

FBC 7th EDITION (2020) FORMAL INTERPRETATION (#8)

DATE: August 12, 2021
TO: All Building Officials
FROM: James DiPietro, Administrative Director
SUBJECT: "Recessed Low Height Air Handlers"

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Board Attorney

Charles M. Kramer, Esq.

Board Administrative Director

James DiPietro

—ESTABLISHED 1971—

At its regularly scheduled meeting of August 12, 2021, the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals revised an interpretation of the following 7th Edition (2020) Florida Building Codes:

FBC, ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE

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:

2. If the unit being replaced is itself a functional unit, such as a condenser, it does not constitute a repair. Outdoor and indoor units that are not designed to be operated together must meet the U.S. Department of Energy certification requirements contained in Section R303.1.2. Matched systems are required; this match may be verified by any one of the following means:
 - a. AHRI data
 - b. Accredited laboratory
 - c. Manufacturer's letter
 - d. Letter from registered P.E. State of Florida
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 space.

Formal Interpretation:

The replacement of existing "Recessed Low Height Air Handlers" that will require the alteration of building walls; as determined by the Building Official or his or her representative, qualifies under Exception #4 to the FBC, Energy Conservation Code 7th Edition section C501.7 and R501.7.

Such systems will not be required to meet the current U.S. Department of Energy certification requirements only if a replacement system that meets the standard is not readily available and will not fit in the available space. Outdoor and indoor units shall be designed to be operated together and shall be verified by one of the four methods in Exception #2 regardless of space constraints.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 30, 2015
RE-ISSUED DATE: July 9, 2020
EFFECTIVE DATE: December 31, 2020
RE-ISSUED DATE: August 12, 2021

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