



BROWARD COUNTY

BOARD OF RULES & APPEALS

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2010 FBC FORMAL INTERPRETATION

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James DiPietro

—ESTABLISHED 1971—

DATE: October 20, 2005

TO: All Building Officials

FROM: James DiPietro
Administrative Director

SUBJECT: **Use of Louvered Doors for Returning Air to Air Handlers**

At its meeting of October 20, 2005, the Board approved an interpretation of the Florida Residential Code (FRC) sec. 1601.3.13 (section 1601.4.13, 2010 FBC, Residential) and sec. 603.17 of the Florida Mechanical Code (FMC). These identical language sections require registers, grilles, and diffusers to have a flame spread not over 25 and a smoke developed rating not over 50 when tested in accordance with ASTM E 84.

Often in SFR and residential portions of multi-family residences a louvered door is utilized to direct the return air to an air handler located in a closet or uninhabited space.

This method is used in lieu of having a return air duct attached to the air handler. If the louvered door was removed return air would still be directed to the air handler. These louvered doors are usually constructed of wood, plastic or metal.

Formal Interpretation:

In Single Family Residences and Residential Portions of Multi-Family Residences louvered doors utilized to direct return air to an air handler located in a closet or uninhabited space are not considered registers, grilles or diffusers and therefore do not have to meet the requirements of Sec. 1601.3.13 of the FRC (section 1601.4.13, 2010 FBC, Residential) or Sec. 603.17 of the 2007 (and 2010) FMC.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 20, 2005
RE-ISSUED: March 1, 2009
RE-ISSUED: March 15, 2012

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