



# BROWARD COUNTY BOARD OF RULES AND APPEALS

## FBC 8<sup>TH</sup> EDITION (2023) FORMAL INTERPRETATION (#1)

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

Phone: 954-765-4500  
Email: [rulesboard@broward.org](mailto:rulesboard@broward.org)  
[www.broward.org/CodeAppeals](http://www.broward.org/CodeAppeals)

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**Board Attorney**  
Charles M. Kramer, Esq.

**Board Administrative Director**  
Dr. Ana Barbosa

— Established 1971 —

**DATE:** October 12, 2023  
**TO:** All Building Officials  
**FROM:** Dr. Ana Barbosa, Administrative Director   
**SUBJECT:** Materials Exposed within Plenums

This Interpretation concerns the residential portion of R-2 occupancies.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on October 12, 2023, the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals approved the following Formal Interpretation.

Section 602.2.1 of the 8th Edition (2023) Florida Mechanical Code requires materials exposed within plenums to be noncombustible or shall have a flame spread index of not more than 25 and a smoke-developed index of not more than 50 when tested in accordance with ASTM E 84-2018B.

CPVC Flowguard Gold Pipe, SDR11, was tested by Southwest Research Institute using a modified ASTM E-84 test methodology in the following sizes:

0.5-inch (nominal) Water Filled CPVC Pipe:	SwRI Project No. 01.04017.01.301b [1]
2.0-inch (nominal) Water Filled CPVC Pipe:	SwRI Project No. 01.04017.01.301c [1]
0.5-inch (nominal) Empty CPVC Pipe:	SwRI Project No. 01.10083.01.158e
0.75-inch (nominal) Empty CPVC Pipe:	SwRI Project No. 01.10083.01.158f [1]

All four Modified ASTM E-84 Tests showed flame spread indices of not more than 25 and smoke-developed indices of not more than 50.

### ***Formal Interpretation:***

By accepting these four Modified ASTM-E 84 Tests, the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals approved the use of CPVC Flowguard Gold Pipe, SDR11 installed in Mechanical Closets and Mechanical Equipment/Appliance Rooms used as plenums in the residential portion of R-2 Occupancies. Approval is limited to 0.5-inch (nominal) through 2-inch (nominal) water-filled CPVC and 0.5-inch (nominal) and 0.75-inch (nominal) empty CPVC pipe.

At its meeting on September 11, 2008, the above Interpretation was expanded to include the following language, which applies to both commercial and residential occupancies:

CPVC piping may be accepted for use in plenums in instances where the manufacturers have tested their product with an approved testing agency to an acceptable alternative method to ASTM E-84 – “Standard Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials.” Evidence must be submitted to the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) that the piping has a flame spread index of not more than 25 and a smoke-developed index of not more than 50 when tested in general accordance with ASTM E-84. The pipe can be tested empty, or water-filled and in various pipe diameters.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 20, 2005  
EFFECTIVE DATE: December 31, 2023

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