



Building Officials Association of Florida, Inc.

Position Statement 08201202

Subject: Rule 61G20-1.002

Issue Date: August 4, 2012

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The specific intent of this statement is to state we support development of an alternative design method for screen enclosures that will accommodate high wind events consistent with the Florida Building Code in accordance with Florida statute 553.73 (17)(3).

BOAF considers a screen enclosure to be a structure and wind loads to be a factor in the sustainability and survivability of the enclosure. In accordance with the recent statutory directive, BOAF supports development of appropriate alternative design methods for these enclosures. An alternative method may include the use of removable or retractable sections or panels and designing the enclosure as "open" to decrease the resistance and potentially reduce damage to the enclosure framework. There is precedent in Code requiring the homeowner to act, such as installing hurricane shutters, removing fabric awning materials, retracting or removing vinyl windows and windbreaks. These required actions do not contemplate damaging or demolishing portions of the structure as would be the case in the cutting of the screens. BOAF does not believe it is in the best interest of the citizens of Florida to require a destructive method, such as the cutting of screens, to preserve the integrity of their enclosure.

Background:

BOAF reiterates our previously stated position regarding Building Code Development in Florida. We recognize and acknowledge the hard work of the Florida Building Commission, its members and staff. While we continue to support the enforcement of a uniform building code in the State of Florida, called the Florida Building Code (FBC), we believe that the most current International Building Code family of codes is the appropriate base document for the Florida Building Code. Tri-annual updates

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to the International Building Code (IBC) are proper and appropriate to continue a code development process that utilizes a public hearing and consensus format, with technical committee members that are nationally recognized subject matter experts.

BOAF also continues to support the active participation of Florida code enforcement professionals, design professionals, contractors, building product manufacturers and interested private sector construction professionals in the development of the International Codes, and by extension, the FBC, through:

1. Service on ICC code committees,
2. Submittal and support of code modification proposals that could improve the effectiveness of the International Codes and the Florida Codes
3. Participating in the International code development hearings

BOAF supports modification of the base code at the state level for only the following purposes, when accompanied by a favorable financial impact statement:

1. To address issues mandated by the state legislature
2. To address coordination and compatibility with the Florida Fire Code
3. To address issues that are specific to the State of Florida
4. To address regional and local concerns and variations

BOAF also continues to support adjusting the time interval for implementation of each tri-annual edition of the FBC to closely follow the publication of the latest International Code edition, but in no case more than twelve months.

We realize all of these positions may not be the most popular. BOAF members have a responsibility to protect the public in the built environment, and are tasked with that responsibility through professional licensure ensuring their knowledge and integrity. We are professionals that take our responsibility seriously and desire to perform them to the best of our abilities. We desire to work with the Commission to accomplish this goal and hope you will take our comments to that end. Thank you for your time.

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