



# Florida Division of State Fire Marshal

The Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association,  
"Organization" (§633.026)

## **Informal Interpretation**

**Date:** 6/24/21

*Edition of the NFPA Document: 2018 (Florida Fire Prevention Code, Seventh Edition)*  
Chapter and Paragraph of the NFPA Document: **7.2.2.3.6**

**Explain how the Petitioner's substantial interests are being affected by the question below:**  
The Petitioner is an AHJ tasked with enforcing the provisions of the FFPC.

**Enter the Petitioner's question concerning an interpretation of the FFPC:**

Do the provisions of 7.2.2.3.6-Dimensional Uniformity apply to existing stairs?

### **7.2.2.3.6\* Dimensional Uniformity.**

**7.2.2.3.6.1** Variation in excess of 3/16 in. (4.8 mm) in the sizes of adjacent tread depths or in the height of adjacent risers shall be prohibited, unless otherwise permitted in **7.2.2.3.6.3**.

**7.2.2.3.6.2** The variation between the sizes of the largest and smallest riser or between the largest and smallest tread depths shall not exceed 3/8 in. (9.5 mm) in any flight.

**7.2.2.3.6.3** Where the bottom or top riser adjoins a sloping public way, walk, or driveway having an established finished ground level and serves as a landing, the bottom or top riser shall be permitted to have a variation in height of not more than 1 in. in every 12 in. (25 mm in every 305 mm) of stairway width.

**7.2.2.3.6.4** The size of the variations addressed by **7.2.2.3.6.1**, **7.2.2.3.6.2**, and **7.2.2.3.6.3** shall be based on the nosing-to-nosing dimensions of the tread depths and riser heights, consistent with the measurement details set out in **7.2.2.3.5**.

### **Boards Answer: yes**

NFPA 101 1.3 states the following:

**1.3.1\* New and Existing Buildings and Structures.** The *Code* shall apply to both new construction and existing buildings and existing structures.

The prescriptive code requirements that govern dimensional uniformity have come from many accidents that resulted from irregularities in stair geometry from one step to an adjacent step or over an entire run of stairs. Although the code does allow for some variation, as stated in the above stated text (7.2.2.3.6.1-7.2.2.3.6.4) the code judges variations outside of these limits as non-code compliant.

Note: the requirements of 7.2.2.3.6 shall not apply in the following situations as provided for in NFPA 101 7.2.2.2.1.2

- (1) Aisle stairs in assembly occupancies, as provided in Chapters 12 and 13
- (2) Approved existing noncomplying stairs

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Rulings herein expressed are not the formal position of the Florida State Fire Marshal's Office

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**Region 1** - Delegate: Vacant  
Alternate: N/A\*

**Region 2** - Delegate: Vacant  
Alternate: N/A\*

**Region 3** - Delegate: **James Groff**, Jacksonville Fire Rescue. (Committee Chair)  
Alternate: **Robert Growick** Division Chief /Fire Marshall City of St. Augustine

**Region 4** - Delegate: **Cheryl Edwards**, Lakeland Fire Rescue  
Alternate: **Scott Finley** Auburndale Fire Department

**Region 5** - Delegate: **Anthony Apfelbeck** , Altamonte Springs Building and Fire Safety Department  
Alternate: **Tim Ippolito**, Casselberry F. R.

**Region 6** - Delegate: **Robert Salvaggio**, Cape Corral Fire Rescue yes  
Alternate: **Janet Washburn**, Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District

**Region 7** - Delegate: **Matthew E. Welhaf**, Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services Department  
Alternate: **(Kenneth) Sean Brown**, Broward Sheriff Fire Rescue & Emergency Services Department.

Note: **Anthony Apfelbeck**, Altamonte Springs Building and Fire Safety Department "Abstained from deliberations and voting on this issue."

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## Committee Region Map



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