



Florida Division of State Fire Marshal

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

Informal Interpretation Request

Date: 4/21/22

NFPA Document Number: NFPA 101 *Edition of the NFPA Document: 2018 7th Edition*

Paragraph Reference: 101: 7.3.1.3.1 & 101:7.3.1.2

Explain how the Petitioner's substantial interests are being affected by the question below:

As the local Fire official, it is my duty to make decisions in the best interest of the Public. I am requesting clarification on the Fire code Occupant Load Factor.

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

Per 553 Florida State Statute the fire official and building official are to settle disagreement in the greater degree of life safety. The Florida State Statute 553 section c states If the local building official and the local fire official are unable to agree on a resolution of the conflict between the Florida Building Code and the Florida Fire Prevention Code, and the Life Safety Code, the local administrative board shall resolve the conflict in favor of the code which offers the greatest degree of life safety or alternatives which would provide an equivalent degree of life safety and an equivalent method of construction. In regard to designing life safety features, egress requirements, etc. using minimum occupant load calculations as required in the Florida Fire Prevention Code 7th Edition table 7.3.1.2, would the Florida Building Code occupant load calculations take precedence if there was a conflict?

Committee Answer: No

This is not a "conflict" between the FFPC and the FBC. Both occupant load calculations and resulting code provisions need to be complied with separately and stand on their own. If the designer desires for the Fire Code or Building Code AHJ to accept the occupant load calculations from one code or the other, the applicable AHJ's can consider and grant or refuse such request under the alternative methods provisions of each code with appropriate justification.

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

Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association | P. O. Box 325 Hobe Sound, FL 33475 | Tel 772-349-1507 | Fax 772-546-6675

Website: www.FFMIA.org | Email: info@ffmia.org | http://www.myfloridacfo.com/sfm/bfpr/bfpr_index.htm



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Region 1 - Delegate: **Byron Bennett**, Fire Chief North Bay Fire Control District
Alternate: **William (Michael) Hall**, Fire Chief, Marianna Fire Rescue

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

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

Region 4 - Delegate: **Cheryl Edwards**, Lakeland Fire Rescue
Alternate: **Karl Thompson**

Region 5 - Delegate: **Anthony Apfelbeck**, Altamonte Springs Building and Fire Safety Department
Alternate: **Christina Diaz**, Seminole County Fl.

Region 6 - Delegate: **Robert Salvaggio**, Cape Corral Fire Rescue
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.

Committee Region Map



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