



Florida Division of State Fire Marshal

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

Informal Interpretation

Date: July 29, 2011

NFPA Document Number: NFPA 101 **Edition:** 2006

Paragraph Reference: 36.3.5.1(2)

For purpose of this petition, pertinent factors do not include the name of the governmental agency or persons representing that agency. Petitioners are discouraged from making any personal assertions about an agency or agency official. If this involves an actual situation, briefly explain all of the pertinent factors.

Question (*should be worded so that it can be answered with either "Yes" or "No"*):

Proposed 1-story, 15,000 SF building of non-combustible construction; Mercantile occupancy.

If the building is divided into two (2) fire areas by a fire wall assembly with each fire area less than 12,000 SF, and each fire area has the required number of exits, will this design approach satisfy the intent of NFPA 101 36.3.5.1(2)?

Answer:

Yes, if the separation meets 36.1.4.2.4 (2).

The term "Fire Area" is a Florida Building Code term and not a Florida Fire Prevention Code term. However, the concepts are similar in both codes. Under 36.1.4.2.4 sub (2), "Where individual tenant spaces are separated by fire barriers with a 2-hour fire resistance rating, each tenant space shall be individually classified."

Committee Answer Submitted by,

Bart Wright, Chair
Informal Fire Code Interpretation Committee

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

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