

## Florida Division of State Fire Marshal

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

## **Informal Interpretation**

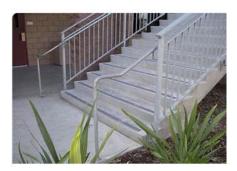
Date: 09/22/20

NFPA Document Number: NFPA 101 2015 Florida Specific

Paragraph Reference: 7.2.2.4.5.5

Explain how the Petitioner's substantial interests are being affected by the question below: <u>I am a fire</u> inspector and employee of the LFO that is dealing with this issue in the field.

Enter the Petitioner's question concerning an interpretation of the FFPC: <u>Is it the intent of NFPA 101:7.2.2.4.5.5 (2015 edition) to apply the 2 1/4 inch minimum spacing requirement to a guard or other similar barrier that is not a wall? (Section 7.2.2.4.5.5 specifically utilizes the term "wall.") See example below:</u>



**Answer: Yes** 

The intent is to provide clearance for the proper grasping of the handrail. The clearance is needed whether it is a guard or a wall or any other type of barrier that could prevent proper grasping of the handrail.

Section from the Life Safety hand book:

In earlier editions of the *Code*, a minimum 1-1/2 in. (38 mm) clearance was required between a new handrail and the wall to which it was fastened. The current provision, as detailed in 7.2.2.4.5.5, increases the required minimum clearance to 2-1/4 in. (57 mm) for new handrails in recognition of the fact that 1-1/2 in. (38 mm) is an inadequate clearance for both a normal grasp and an emergency grasp of the handrail. Exhibit 7.101 depicts the required 2-1/4 in. (57 mm) finger clearance.

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

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Committee Answer Submitted by, James Groff, Chairman Informal Fire Code Interpretation Committee

**Region 1** - Delegate: Vacant

Alternate: N/A\*

Region 2 - Delegate: Vacant

Alternate: N/A\*

**Region 3** - Delegate: *James Groff*, Jacksonville Fire Rescue. (Committee Chair) (Yes)

Alternate: *Robert Growick* Division Chief /Fire Marshall City of St. Augustine (Yes)

**Region 4** - Delegate: *Cheryl Edwards*, Lakeland Fire Rescue (Yes)

Alternate: Scott Finely Auburndale Fire Department (Yes)

**Region 5** - Delegate: <u>Anthony Apfelbeck</u>, Altamonte Springs Building Department (Abstain)

Alternate: *Tim Ippolito*, Casselberry F. R. (Yes)

**Region 6** - Delegate: *Robert Salvaggio*, Cape Corral Fire Rescue (Yes)

Alternate: *Ianet Washburn*, Bonita Springs (Yes)

Region 7 - Delegate: Matthew E. Welhaf, Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services Department

Alternate: <u>Sean Brown</u>, Broward Sheriff Fire Rescue & Emergency Services Department. (Yes)

## **Committee Region Map**



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