



Florida Division of State Fire Marshal

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

Informal Interpretation

Date: July 18, 2014

NFPA Document Number: 101

Paragraph Reference: 3.3.254.6

Edition: 2009 (FFPC 2010)

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.

Actual Situation Explanation:

The project is a 4-story, R-2, Type V-A, NFPA 13R, building which surrounds a 4-story, S-2, Type II-B, NFPA 13, structured parking garage building on all four sides. The residential building's walls that face the parking garage are of 1-hour fire-resistance rated construction. In accordance with NFPA 101 section 3.3.254.6 (3,) two adjacent sides of the structured parking garage building abut the residential building line, and therefore have 1-hour fire resistance with no openings except doors meeting the requirements of NFPA 101 section 8.3.3. The remaining two adjacent and perpendicular sides of the structured parking garage building, excluding required 1-hour fire resistant stair walls and structural columns, are separated by a distance of at least 10 feet from the residential building, creating voids that are open to the sky. The adjacent and perpendicular walls with at least 10ft separation from the residential building line have at least 50% of the clear height between floors open to the atmosphere for their full length, and uniformly distributed openings amounting to more than 20 percent of the total perimeter wall area and more than 40 percent of the lineal perimeter length of each parking garage tier to meet the requirements of 2010 NFPA 101 section 3.3.254.6 (1) a and b. There is less 200ft travel distance from any point on any floor level to an open exterior wall.

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

Considering that the open exterior walls of the garage meet the criteria of 3.3.254.6(1,) and the remaining exterior walls meet the criteria of 3.3.254.6(3,) can the parking garage building be classified as an open parking structure in accordance with NFPA 101 section 3.3.254.6?

Answer: Yes

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

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Reviewing Members:

Region 1, Bruce Teston
Region 2, John Gatlin
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Region 5, Anthony Apfelbeck
Region 7, C. Bryan Park

Committee Answer Submitted by,
Tim Ippolito, Chair
Informal Fire Code Interpretation Committee

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