



# BROWARD COUNTY BOARD OF RULES AND APPEALS

## FBC 8<sup>TH</sup> EDITION (2023) FORMAL INTERPRETATION (#8)

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**Vice-Chair Ron Burr,**  
Swimming Pool Contractor

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Roofing Contractor

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F.ASCE, F.SEI, Structural Engineer

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Fire Service Professional

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Architect

### 2024 Alternate Board Members

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S.T.S.2., Structural Engineer

**VACANT,**  
Roofing Contractor

**Board Attorney**  
Charles M. Kramer, Esq.

**Board Administrative Director**  
Dr. Ana Barbosa

— Established 1971 —

**DATE:** October 12, 2023  
**TO:** All Building Officials  
**FROM:** Dr. Ana Barbosa, Administrative Director   
**SUBJECT:** Recessed Low Height Air Handlers"

At its regularly scheduled meeting on October 12, 2023, the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals revised an interpretation of the following 8th Edition (2023) Florida Building Codes:

### FBC, ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE

Sections C501.6 and R501.7 Building systems and components.

Thermal efficiency standards are set for the following building systems and components where new products are installed or replaced in existing buildings, and for which a permit must be obtained. New products shall meet the minimum efficiencies allowed by this code for the following systems and components:

- Heating, ventilating, or air-conditioning systems;
- Service water or pool heating systems;
- Lighting systems; and
- Replacement fenestration.

### Exceptions:

2. If the unit being replaced is itself a functional unit, such as a condenser, it does not constitute a repair. Outdoor and indoor units that are not designed to be operated together must meet the US Department of Energy certification requirements contained in Section R303.1.2. Matched systems are required; this match may be verified by any one of the following means:

- a. AHRI data
- b. Accredited laboratory
- c. Manufacturer's letter
- d. Letter from registered P.E. State of Florida

4. Replacement equipment that would require extensive revisions to other systems, equipment, or elements of a building where such replacement is a like-for-like replacement, such as through-the-wall condensing units and PTACs, chillers, and cooling towers in confined spaces.

### ***Formal Interpretation:***

The replacement of existing "Recessed Low Height Air Handlers" that will require the alteration of building walls; as determined by the Building Official or his or her representative, qualifies under Exception #4 to the FBC, 2023 Energy Conservation Code 8th Edition section C501.6 and R501.7.

Such systems will not be required to meet the current US Department of Energy certification requirements only if a replacement system that meets the standard is not readily available and will not fit in the available space. Outdoor and indoor units shall be designed to be operated together and shall be verified by one of the four methods in Exception #2, regardless of space constraints.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** June 30, 2015  
**EFFECTIVE DATE:** December 31, 2023

\*\*\* PLEASE POST AT YOUR PERMIT COUNTER \*\*\*