

Good morning Chiefs;

The 5th Edition FMC reads as follows:

301.15 Wind resistance.

Mechanical *equipment*, appliances and supports that are exposed to wind shall be designed and installed to resist the wind pressures determined in accordance with the *Florida Building Code, Building*.

A similar language used to be in the 2010 Residential Code in section M1307.2.1, but is no longer there.

M1307.2 Anchorage of appliances.

Appliances designed to be fixed in position shall be fastened or anchored in an *approved* manner. In Seismic Design Categories D₁ and D₂, water heaters shall be anchored or strapped to resist horizontal displacement caused by earthquake motion. Strapping shall be at points within the upper one-third and lower one-third of the *appliance's* vertical dimensions. At the lower point, the strapping shall maintain a minimum distance of 4 inches (102 mm) above the controls.

However, the following FBC Residential section sends us back to the FMC;

M1301.1 Scope.

The provisions of this chapter shall govern the installation of mechanical systems not specifically covered in other chapters applicable to mechanical systems. Installations of mechanical *appliances, equipment* and systems not addressed by this code shall comply with the applicable provisions of the *Florida Building Code, Mechanical* and the *Florida Building Code, Fuel Gas*.

The Florida Legislature provided, in at least two occasions, temporary reprieve to HVAC equipment manufacturers, see below;

2010- Florida Statutes 553.844 Windstorm loss mitigation; requirements for roofs and opening protection.—

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, exposed mechanical equipment or appliances fastened to a roof or installed on the ground in compliance with the code using rated stands, platforms, curbs, slabs, or other means are deemed to comply with the wind resistance requirements of the 2007 Florida Building Code, as amended. Further support or enclosure of such mechanical equipment or appliances is not required by a state or local official having authority to enforce the Florida Building Code. **This subsection expires on the effective date of the 2010 Florida Building Code.**

History.—s. 5, ch. 2007-126; s. 17, ch. 2008-191; s. 40, ch. 2010-176.

2012 Florida Statutes

553.844 Windstorm loss mitigation; requirements for roofs and opening protection.—

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, exposed mechanical equipment or appliances fastened to a roof or installed on the ground in compliance with the code using rated stands, platforms, curbs, slabs, or other means are deemed to comply with the wind resistance requirements of the 2007 Florida Building Code, as amended. Further support or enclosure of such mechanical equipment or appliances is not required by a state or local official having authority to enforce the Florida Building Code. **This subsection expires on the effective date of the 2013 Florida Building Code.**

History.—s. 5, ch. 2007-126; s. 17, ch. 2008-191; s. 40, ch. 2010-176; s. 16, ch. 2012-13.

This reprieve expires with the new code edition. I have not seen documentation on any HVAC equipment that complies with FMC 301.15.

Please, be prepared to enforce the code as written, starting July 1, 2015.

Respectfully,

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