



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
HERBERT S. SAFFIR PERMITTING AND INSPECTION CENTER


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Board and Code Administration Division

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MEMO

TO: ALL BUILDING OFFICIALS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

**FROM: Secretary of the Board
Board of Rules and Appeals (BORA)** 

DATE: March 27, 2024

SUBJECT: BORA Interpretation on Alterations to Non-metallic Ducts

In the meeting of March 14, 2024, the Miami-Dade County Board of Rules and Appeals (BORA) deliberated the requirements of the Florida Building Code, Mechanical 8th Edition (2023) Section 603 “Duct construction and installation” as follows:

603.5 Nonmetallic ducts.

Nonmetallic ducts shall be constructed with Class 0 or Class 1 duct material and shall comply with UL 181. Fibrous duct construction shall conform to the SMACNA Fibrous Glass Duct Construction Standards or NAIMA Fibrous Glass Duct Construction Standards. The air temperature within nonmetallic ducts shall not exceed 250°F.

603.6.1 Flexible air ducts.

Flexible air ducts, both metallic and nonmetallic, shall be tested in accordance with UL 181. Such ducts shall be listed and labeled as Class 0 or Class 1 flexible air ducts and shall be installed in accordance with Section 304.1.

Clarifications were considered regarding field made alterations to non-metallic ducts (fibrous glass, flex and phenolic ducts) such as the application of wraps, additional overwraps of insulation or barriers, adding spray-foam insulation, surface painting, applying sealants, coatings, etc.

The Board determined that the alterations above mentioned, without the duct material manufacturer’s approval, may compromise the fire safety performance of the duct and void the manufacturer’s listing and/or product warranty and therefore such practice is not compliant with the Florida Building Code requirements.

If you have any additional questions on this matter, please contact Amador Barzaga, Senior Code Officer at (786) 315-2559.