



STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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JEB BUSH
Governor

THADDEUS L. COHEN, AIA
Secretary

December 12, 2006

Mr. Joe Belcher
JDB Code Services
41 Oak Village Dr.
Homosassa, FL 34446

Subject: AAF Request for Clarification on Use of the AAF Guide to Aluminum Construction in High Wind Areas (Guide)

Dear Mr. Belcher:

I received your request for clarification of whether the AAF Guide to Aluminum Construction in High Wind Areas (Guide) can be used for design of aluminum structures after the 2006 Amendments to the Florida Building Code take effect. It is my understanding there are inconsistencies between amended requirements of Chapter 20 of the Code and the Guide, which has led some jurisdictions to question the Guide's validity.

I would advise there are inconsistencies between the referenced specification standards for wind resistant design in Chapter 16 of the Code and the primary wind design standard adopted by the Code, ASCE 7, also but those specification standards are still authorized for use. It is not uncommon for the Code to allow different approaches to achieve the same performance goal.

The Guide remains a referenced standard by the Code after implementation of the 2006 Amendments. Therefore, it continues to be an authorized design alternative by the State. Should local jurisdictions elect not to recognize the Guide their only recourse by law is to enact a local amendment pursuant to the requirements of section 553.73, Florida Statute.

I trust this issue does not rise to the need for formal Commission action. It is such a straightforward requirement of law. However, should this continue to be a problem AAF should

pursue either a formal declaratory statement or challenge a building official's errant action via the binding interpretation process. The Commission would encourage you to work with local jurisdictions to resolve any disagreements on this matter and its staff will assist with whatever clarifications will help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard W. Dixon".

Richard W. Dixon, Executive Director
Florida Building Commission

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