

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-1-02

January 8, 2002

The following is offered in response to your request for a formal interpretation of Section 300-22 (c) (2) of the 1999 National Electrical Code portion of the 1999 State Building Code.

Question 1: Does electrical equipment with a metal enclosure such as lighting fixtures, need to be listed and labeled for use in above ceiling space used for environmental air, such as a return air plenum?

Answer 1: No. Electrical equipment with a metal enclosure is allowed within spaces used for environmental air without a specific listing for such use. Nonmetallic enclosures used within spaces used for environmental air must, however, be listed for such use in addition to having “adequate fire-resistant and low-smoke-producing characteristics.” Note that by exception, integral fan systems shall be permitted where specifically identified for such use.