

## **STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-14-00**

March 3, 2000

The following is offered in response to your letter in which you request an interpretation of Section 1205.2 of the BOCA National Building Code/1996 portion of the 1999 State Building Code which states in part that every room or space intended for human occupancy shall be provided with natural or mechanical ventilation.

**Question:** Are Use Group R-3 and R-2 residential bathrooms that have operable windows providing natural ventilation required to have exhaust fans as a means of mechanical ventilation in addition to the operable windows?

**Answer:** Yes, if they contain bathing fixtures in addition to the toilet and lavatory. Section 402.3.1 of the 1996 International Mechanical Code portion of the 1999 State Building Code, which is applicable to Use Groups R-3 and R-2, states in part that rooms containing bathtubs, showers, spas and similar bathing facilities shall be mechanically ventilated in accordance with Section 403. Table 403.3 requires a mechanical exhaust capacity of 50 cfm intermittent or 20 cfm continuous. For bathrooms not containing bathing fixtures, either natural or mechanical ventilation is acceptable.