

## STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-20-01

June 11, 2001

The following is offered in response to your letter to me dated June 7, 2001, in which you request formal interpretations of sections 404.4, 404.5 and 713.3 of the BOCA National Building Code/1996 portion of the 1999 State Building Code.

**Question One:** Is it acceptable under the 1999 State Building Code, to invoke both sections 404.4 and 404.5, Exception #3 to allow a two-story atrium with no smoke control system in a sprinklered building to be completely unseparated from both floors?

**Answer One:** Yes. Section 404.4 only requires smoke control systems in atriums that connect more than two stories. Section 404.5, Exception #3 states that the adjacent spaces of any three floors of an atrium shall not be required to be separated from the atrium, provided such spaces are included in the atrium volume for design of the smoke control system. Since section 404.4 has told us that a smoke control system is not required in atriums connecting not more than two stories, this provision is moot. The two code sections referenced are not mutually exclusive and may be used in concert to construct a two-story atrium with no smoke control in a fully sprinklered building with both floors open to the atrium.

**Question Two:** Could one alternatively utilize section 713.3, Exception #2, to cover the same situation referred to in Question One, in a Use Group B and/or A occupancy.

**Answer Two:** Yes, providing that all five conditions of Exception #2 are met.