

## **STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-21-00**

March 27, 2000

The following is offered in response to your letter in which you request a formal interpretation of Section 603.0 of the BOCA National Building Code/1996 portion of the 1999 State Building Code as it applies to the use of combustible wood siding on a Type 2C building attached by fire wall to a type 5B building.

### **Question:**

Does the code allow installation of combustible wood siding (cedar) on the exterior of a Type 2C building that is otherwise code-compliant?

### **Answer:**

Yes, with restrictions. Section 602.4 of the code permits combustible elements in non-combustible construction subject to the limitations of the section without altering the construction classification. Section 602.4.1, item #7 permits combustible exterior veneer and trim as permitted by Section 1406.0. Section 1406.2 requires that combustible exterior wall finish be tested and installed in accordance with sections 1406.2.1 through 1406.2.4.

Section 1406.2.1 sets forth the requirements for testing for exposure to radiant heat, but exception 1 to this section exempts wood or wood-based products, so this section is not applicable to your project. Section 1406.2.2 states that combustible exterior wall finish shall not exceed 10 percent of an exterior wall surface where the fire separation distance is 5 feet or less. Schematic plans submitted with your request show that this may be an issue on your project and requires further investigation on your part. Section 1406.2.2 also states that in buildings of Type 2 construction, all architectural trim, which exceeds 40 feet in height above the grade plane, shall be constructed of approved non-combustible material. Information submitted with your request indicates this is not an issue in your project. Section 1406.2.3 provides additional restrictions on the use of combustible exterior wall finish located along the top of exterior walls. Section 1406.2.4 requires fireblocking of continuous exterior wall finish constructed of combustible materials.

If all the requirements of Section 1406.0 are complied with, combustible wood siding may be used as the exterior wall finish of a Type 2C building.