

**PETITION FOR DECLARATORY STATEMENT  
BEFORE THE FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION**

<b>FILED</b>	
Department of Business and Professional Regulation Deputy Agency Clerk	
CLERK	Brandon Nichols
Date	11/5/2018
File #	

Company: Lineaire Designs, LLC  
Address: 2347 Biscayne Boulevard,  
Suite 108  
Miami, FL 33137

Name: Lorenzo Cobiella  
Title: Vice President and Lead Architect  
Telephone: 786-350-1317  
E-mail: [lorenzo@lineairedesigns.com](mailto:lorenzo@lineairedesigns.com)

**DS 2018-076**

**Statute(s), Agency Rule(s), Agency Order(s) and/or Code Section(s) on which the Declaratory Statement is sought:**

6<sup>th</sup> Edition Florida Building Code, Building  
Portions of Chapters 16 and 24

**Background:**

Lineaire Designs is the architect for the future renovation of retail space 107 at 350 NE 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami FL 33137. A mixed-use, 14 story building with retail use on the ground level and residential use on the upper stories located in the City of Miami, FL. As part of the renovation of this retail space, the existing steel guards, handrails and pickets of an open, internal mezzanine space and internal stairway to this mezzanine space are being replaced with a new, 9/16" laminated and tempered glass handrail and guard assembly designed to comply with the linear and concentrated loads of Section 1607.8.1 and Section 2407 of the Florida Building Code.

**Questions:**

Is Section 1607.8.1 the applicable Section of the Florida Building Code for the design of a glass handrail and guards assembly in an interior installation?

Since the project address resides within a High Velocity Hurricane Zone as defined by the Florida Building Code, is Chapter 16, Section 1618.4.6.3, HIGH VELOCITY HURRICANE ZONES-SPECIAL LOAD CONSIDERATIONS, the applicable section of the Florida Building Code for the design of a glass handrail and guards assembly in an interior installation.

**Summary:**

Petitioner respectfully believes that the engineering of handrails and guards for an interior application not subject to High Velocity Hurricane forces regardless of the physical location of the project is governed by Sections 1607.8.1 and 2407 and that the use of the phrase "Handrails and Guards shall be designed..." is an affirmative statement that an engineered system, complying with the requirements of the Florida Building Code, Sections 1607.8.1 and 2407 is acceptable.

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This petitioner fully understands the extensive work of the Commission in developing the new codes for greater safety and improvement for the consumer and, likewise, it would seem reasonable to ensure that the codes are uniformly interpreted. Section 553.775(1), Florida Statutes (2011), states: "It is the intent of the Legislature that the Florida Building Code be interpreted by building officials, local enforcement agencies, and the commission in a manner that protects the public safety, health, and welfare at the most reasonable cost to the consumer by ensuring uniform interpretations throughout the state and by providing processes for resolving disputes regarding interpretations of the Florida Building Code which are just and expeditious."

Respectfully submitted,

Lineaire Designs, LLC

By:  05 Nov. 2018

Lorenzo Cobiella, AR 0008681

Vice President and Lead Architect.