Department of Community Affairs
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Tallahassee, FL 32399

Petition for Declaratory Statement Before Florida Building Commission

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Regarding: Florida Building Code 13-415.1.ABC.1.1 & 13-415.1.ABC.1.2

I am the electrical engineer on a series of 4,200 square foot (sf) branches for 5th/3rd Bank corporation. The recent amendments to the FBC (December of 2006), specifically those made to the Energy Efficiency portion of the code has me a little confused.

The first referenced section (13-415.1.ABC.1.1) states that all buildings larger than 5,000 sf are required to have a system to automatically shut the lighting down in all spaces by a time-of-day device (time clocks), occupancy sensors, or another system that is able to detect unoccupied spaces.

The second section (13-415.1.ABC.1.2) requires that all spaces (defined as enclosed by ceiling height partitions) are required to have a system to shut down the lighting within 30 minutes of the occupants exiting the space. There are (3) exceptions listed as classrooms, conference/meeting rooms, and break/lunch rooms where said room uses multi-scene lighting.

Am I correct in saying that these buildings, despite being less than 5,000 sf, shall have occupancy sensors installed to turn off the lighting within 30 minutes of the occupants leaving the various rooms and offices?

If so, it seems that section 13-415.1.ABC.1.1 only pertains to the rooms exempted from section 13-415.1.ABC.1.2 and larger open storage/warehouse spaces in buildings that are larger than 5,000 sf. Is this also correct?
As one might imagine, this does impact a significant number of buildings since prior to this amended version of the code, only buildings larger than 5,000 sf were required to use automatic lighting controls. The smaller buildings could use various methods to achieve the required number of “control points” in its various spaces.

Your input is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Joseph, W. Broughton, PE #63949

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