

Halsey Beshears, Secretary

Ron DeSantis, Governor

October 23, 2020

Advisory – Building Officials

RE: Local Product Approval

Building officials have the authority to determine if products, materials, or methods of construction meet the requirements of the Florida Building Code. Building officials should base their approvals of products, materials, or methods of construction on testing and evaluation from accredited testing and evaluation entities. Additionally, any product approval compliance report, used to support approval of a product, must affirm the product's compliance with the specific testing standards as prescribed by the Florida Building Code. Furthermore, Section 104.11.2 of the Florida Building Code specifically grants building officials the authority to request evidence of compliance with the provisions of the Florida Building Code including copies of the specific test reports and the engineering analysis referenced in a product approval compliance report.

**[A] 104.11.2 Tests.** Whenever there is insufficient evidence of compliance with the provisions of this code, or evidence that a material or method does not conform to the requirements of this code, or in order to substantiate claims for alternative materials or methods, the *building official* shall have the authority to require tests as evidence of compliance to be made at no expense to the jurisdiction. Test methods shall be as specified in this code or by other recognized test standards. In the absence of recognized and accepted test methods, the *building official* shall approve the testing procedures. Tests shall be performed by an *approved agency*. Reports of such tests shall be retained by the *building official* for the period required for retention of public records.