




**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
HERBERT S. SAFFIR PERMITTING AND INSPECTION CENTER**

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ADVISORY MEMO

TO: ALL BUILDING OFFICIALS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

FROM:  **Michael L. Goolsby, Director**
Board and Code Administration Division

DATE: October 24, 2016

SUBJECT: Wood louvered doors in return air plenums - 2014 FBC, M Section 602.2.1

This memorandum is provided to share valuable information on the topic of wood louvered doors located in return air plenums. The Board of Rules and Appeals recently considered an appeal of a mechanical inspection rejection of a new multi-story apartment building due to the installation of wood louvered doors in the air handler closets situated within each individual apartment unit.

The Appellant disputed the Building Official's interpretation of air conditioning closets, in the Group R-2 multi-residential building, as being classified as return air plenums and whether the wood louver door needed to comply with the requirements of being noncombustible or listed and labeled as having flame spread and smoke developed index as specified by the Florida Building Code.

The Board concluded that the air conditioning closets in each apartment of a Group R-2 multi-residential building (with non-ducted air return) is a return air plenum and consequently has to comply with the requirements of the 2014 Florida Building Code, Mechanical, Section "602.2.1 Materials within plenums" which includes the closet door, even if louvered, in order to prevent the potential for the spread of fire and smoke through the air distribution system.

If you have any additional questions on this matter, please contact Amador Barzaga, Training and Certification Officer at (786) 315-2559.