



**BUILDING CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICE**  
METRO-DADE FLAGLER BUILDING  
140 WEST FLAGLER STREET, SUITE 1603  
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33130-1563  
(305) 375-2901 FAX (305)375-2908

**CONTRACTOR LICENSING SECTION**  
(305) 375-2527 FAX (305) 375-2558

**CONTRACTOR ENFORCEMENT SECTION**  
(305) 375-2966 FAX (305) 375-2908

**PRODUCT CONTROL DIVISION**  
(305) 375-2902 FAX (305) 372-6339

## MEMO

**TO: All Building Officials in Miami-Dade County**

**FROM: Herminio F. González, P.E., Secretary**  
**Miami-Dade Board of Rules and Appeals**

**DATE: February 15, 2005**

**SUBJECT: Interpretation of FBC Sections 1026.5.1 & 1617.4**

At their January 22, 2005 meeting the Board of Rules and Appeals rendered an interpretation and clarification relevant to conflicts regarding the height of the safeguards/guardrails contained in Section 1026.5.1 and 1617.4 of the Florida Building Code. The Board's interpretation is as follows:

*Open or glazed wall openings; open or glazed sides of balconies, landings and other walking surfaces; unenclosed floor and roof openings; roofs used for other than services for the building or structure and any other abrupt differences in level exceeding 30 inches (762 mm), including yard areas, shall be provided with safeguards not less than 42 inches (1067 mm) in height.*

Additionally, the Board agreed that stairway safeguard/guardrail at a minimum height of 36 inches is acceptable within individual dwelling units on Residential Occupancy only.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eduardo Fernandez, Building Code Compliance Specialist (Building) at (305) 375-2901.