BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Position Statement # 04 – 410 - 01

Subject: **Elementary School Stages/Platforms**
Applicable Code: **2004 FBC 410.5.1**
Date: **August 1, 2006**

Question: Is there a different standard applied to a stage/platform in an elementary school cafeteria than to a regular stage? If so, is it the intent of 410.5.1 and 410.5.2 to require one hour construction to separate dressing rooms and/or storage rooms adjacent to a platform in a cafeteria?

Comment: The 2004 Florida Building Code vaguely defines the terms "stage" &"platform".

PLATFORM. A raised area within a building used for worship, the presentation of music, plays or other entertainment; the raised area for lecturers and speakers; and similar purposes wherein there are no overhead hanging curtains, drops, scenery or stage effects other than lighting and sound.

STAGE. A space within a building utilized for entertainment or presentations, which includes overhead hanging curtains, drops, scenery or stage effects other than lighting and sound.

The 2004 Florida Building Code Handbook, State Requirements for New Educational Facilities Construction published by The Florida Department of Education states "A stage is defined as a space within a building used for entertainment or presentations including the use of drops, scenery, or other stage effects. The intent of the Florida Building Code is to permit non-theatrical stages to be categorized as platforms"

The Life Safety Code addresses the issue based on the hazards and leaves the determination to the AHJ, the following from the Life Safety Code Commentary sheds some light on the stage vs. platform question: "The terms stage and platform are defined so as to differentiate between the two. The definition of stage should be examined in conjunction with the definition of platform. The intent is to include non-theatrical stages, such as those in many grade schools, under the definition of platform.

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The critical features in defining a stage are hanging curtains, leg drops, and scenery. Hanging curtains commonly used on platforms are normally used to conceal lighting or to provide a more aesthetic appearance. An arrangement without hanging curtains, leg drops, or scenery is most likely a platform."

Answer: The Platform/Stages in our elementary schools are to be considered Platforms and not Stages and do not require one hour construction to separate from accessory spaces.

This interpretation has been accepted and approval by the BCPS Chief Building Official.

RFM 8-1-06

Ronald F. Morgan, Acting Chief Building Official Date:

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