

Walker Engineering, Inc.

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April 20, 2005

Mr. John H. Guy
Verot Oaks Building Blocks, Inc.
P. O. Box 62806
Lafayette, Louisiana 70596-2806

Re: Florida Product Approval

Dear Mr. Guy:

I have contacted the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) concerning obtaining Florida Product Approval for the VOB concrete blocks. I contacted Mr. Mo Madani, P.E., DCA, Mr. Jon Caudill, DCA, Mr. Buster Case, DCA, and Mr. Theodore (Ted) Berman, P.E., Senior Project Manager - A&A Arnold and Associates, Inc. A&A Arnold and Associates, Inc. is the engineering firm that processes the statewide product approvals for DCA. These gentlemen have decided that a Florida product approval cannot be issued for your concrete blocks. Product approvals are issued under Rule 9B-72. Section 9B-72.060 limits the issuing to the following eight categories of products "(1) panel walls, (2) exterior products, (3) roofing products, (4) skylights, (5) windows, (6) shutters, (7) structural components, and (8) products comprising a building envelope as a result of new technology." Florida Building Commission has not issued a product approval for any concrete masonry unit. The decision was based on products manufactured or fabricated to a code referenced standard are not approved by the Florida Building Commission. Their position was that your quality assurance program should be able to provide any local jurisdiction with a certified statement that the concrete masonry units comply with ASTM C 90. Design and installation for concrete masonry units are to be in accordance with ACI 530 and Chapter 21 of the *Florida Building Code* (FBC).

If local jurisdictions do not accept your concrete masonry units, Mr. Madani recommended that we submit a request for a Florida Building Commission Declaratory Statement. The Florida Building Commission Declaratory Statement is an official statement from the Florida Building Commission that your concrete masonry units are not required to have Florida Product Approval. Florida Building Commission will hold a hearing on the request and issue a declaratory statement. Mr. Madani thought that the Florida Building Commission's declaratory statement would be that concrete masonry units are not covered by the Florida Product Approval program. Concrete masonry units complying with ASTM C 90 and designed and installed according to ACI 530 and Chapter 21 of the *Florida Building Code* are approved by the local jurisdiction. The local jurisdiction may request documentation to prove compliance with ASTM C 90 such as a certified statement from a third party inspection agency. Design and installation documentation is to indicate compliance with ACI 530 and appropriate section of

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Chapter 21 of the FBC. This documentation is normally shown on the construction documents.
If you have any question, contact me.

Sincerely,



Gary W. Walker, P.E.