



## **R310.1 Emergency Escape and Rescue Opening Required**

Basements, habitable attics and every sleeping room shall have not less than one operable emergency escape and rescue opening. Where basements contain one or more sleeping rooms, an emergency escape and rescue opening shall be required in each sleeping room. Emergency escape and rescue openings shall open directly into a public way or to a yard or court that opens to a public way.

### **Exceptions:**

1. Basements with a ceiling height of less than 80 inches (2032 mm) shall not be required to have emergency escape and rescue openings.
2. Emergency escape and rescue openings are not required from basements or sleeping rooms that have an exit door or exit access door that opens directly into a public way or to a yard, court or exterior egress balcony that opens to a public way.
3. Basements without habitable spaces and having not more than 200 square feet (18.6 m<sup>2</sup>) in floor area shall not be required to have emergency escape and rescue openings.
4. Storm shelters are not required to comply with this section where the shelter is constructed in accordance with ICC 500.
5. Where the dwelling unit or townhouse unit is equipped with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section R313, sleeping rooms in basements shall not be required to have emergency escape and rescue openings provided that the basement has one of the following:
  - 5.1 One means of egress complying with Section R311 and one emergency escape and rescue opening.
  - 5.2 Two means of egress complying with Section R311.

## **R310.2 Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings**

### **R310.2.1 Minimum Size**

Emergency escape and rescue openings shall have a net clear opening of not less than 5.7 square feet (0.530 m<sup>2</sup>).

Exception: The minimum net clear opening for grade floor emergency escape and rescue openings shall be 5 square feet (0.465 m<sup>2</sup>).

### **R310.2.2 Minimum Dimensions**

The minimum net clear opening height dimension shall be 24 inches (610 mm). The minimum net clear opening width dimension shall be 20 inches (508 mm). The net clear opening dimensions shall be the result of normal operation of the opening.

### **R310.2.3 Maximum Height From Floor**

Emergency escape and rescue openings shall have the bottom of the clear opening not greater than 44 inches (1118 mm) measured from the floor.

### **R310.2.4 Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings Under Decks, Porches and Cantilevers**

Emergency escape and rescue openings installed under decks, porches and cantilevers shall be fully openable and provide a path not less than 36 inches (914 mm) in height and 36 inches (914 mm) in width to a yard or court.

**R310.3 Emergency Escape and Rescue Doors**

Where a door is provided as the required emergency escape and rescue opening, it shall be a side-hinged door or a sliding door.