



STATE OF MAINE  
Department of Public Safety  
Office of State Fire Marshal  
52 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0052

PAUL R. LePAGE  
GOVERNOR

JOHN E. MORRIS  
COMMISSIONER

JOSEPH THOMAS  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

October 17, 2013


Re: Policy for clarification of existing egress windows

From: Joseph Thomas

Effective November 1, 2013, the following will be the policy for egress windows within existing buildings. Any building constructed after 1976 shall be required to comply with the requirement to provide 5.7 sq. ft. of net clear opening with a minimum width of 20" and minimum height of 24". The window shall also meet all other requirements for egress windows contained in the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code. Any replacement windows installed in a building constructed after 1976 shall be required to meet the net clear opening of 5.7 sq.ft. This shall be measured with the window in it's natural open position.

Any building constructed before 1976 will be allowed to meet the following specifications. The net clear opening would be allowed to meet the minimum 20" in width and 24" in height with a total net clear opening of 3.3 sq.ft; if the window is constructed of wood or vinyl and the overall window sash size meets a minimum of 5.0 sq. ft. The window shall meet all other requirements for an egress window as specified in the NFPA 101 Life safety Code as adopted by the Office of State Fire Marshal. Any replacement window installed in a building constructed prior to 1976 shall meet the same requirements as the existing windows and shall not reduce the existing net clear opening below the minimum requirements.

Any existing window that has been previously approved will be allowed to continue in use. This policy does not prevent a local jurisdiction from adopting a more restrictive policy under an ordinance or life safety policy.



Joseph Thomas  
State Fire Marshal

PREVENTION \* MITIGATION/ SUPPRESSION \* LAW ENFORCEMENT

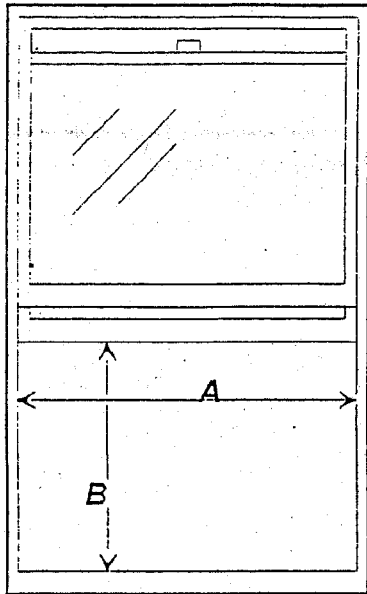
OFFICES LOCATED AT: 45 COMMERCE DRIVE, AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330

(207) 626-3870 ADMINISTRATION/ INVESTIGATIONS  
(207) 626-3880 INSPECTIONS/ PLANS REVIEW

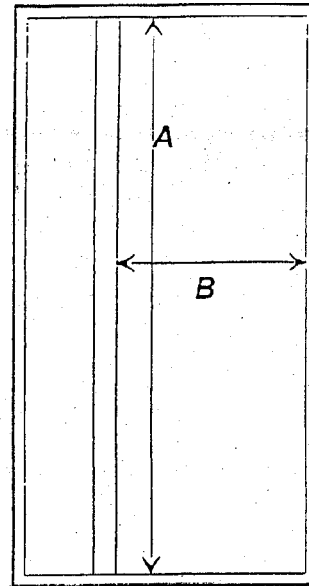
(207) 287-3659 TDD

(207) 287-6251 FAX

# THE EGRESS WINDOW



*double-hung*



*casement*

*When the window is in the normal open position the opening must be at least 5.7 square feet in area.*

*A times B must equal at least 820.8 square inches.*

*The width of the opening must be at least 20 inches.*

*The height of the opening must be at least 24 inches.*

*20 x 24 only equals 480 square inches, not enough.*

*32 x 26 = 832 square inches. 832 divided by 144 equals 5.7777 square feet.*