



December 3, 2019

Mr. Christopher Baldwin, Building Official
Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center
1 School Street
Bethel, CT 06801

Dear Mr. Baldwin:

RE: I-14-19 Section R310.1 Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings Required

This is in response to your letter of October 30, 2019 in which you are seeking clarification to the following questions:

QUESTION: Is the intent of the code to require all "basements" as defined in the code (which would include non-habitable spaces such as closets, mechanical rooms, hallways, or other unfinished areas) as being required to have an emergency escape and rescue opening or is the intent to have "habitable spaces" as defined in the code within basements that are newly created i.e. ("brand new home" with habitable basements shown on the plans) to have an emergency escape and rescue opening??

ANSWER: Section R310.1 of the 2015 International Residential Code portion of the 2018 State Building Code now requires all basements whether habitable or not to have at least one emergency escape and rescue opening unless you meet one of the exceptions in R310.1.

However, the 2018 International Residential Code portion of the proposed 2020 State Building Code has been amended to revert back to require such window within a "habitable basement".

Sincerely,

Joseph V. Cassidy, P.E.
State Building Inspector

c: Daniel Tierney, Deputy State Building Inspector