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

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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 E Thomas

Joseph Thomas
State Fire Marshal