

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202
919-647-0000**

Roof Access Opening for 3-Story or Less Building

Code: 2012 Building Code
Section: 1009.13.1 & 1209.3

Date: February 28, 2017

Question:

If a roof access opening is provided for a 3-story or less building, what is the minimum required size for the opening?

Answer:

The minimum size must comply with Section 306.3 of the NC Mechanical Code. Section 306.3 indicates that the opening must be 20"x30" or large enough for the largest mechanical equipment to pass through, whichever is larger. If no mechanical equipment is located on the roof, or the mechanical equipment that will not pass thru a 20"x30" opening will be removed and/or installed using an exterior lift system (either permanent or portable), then the opening can be 20"x30".

Keywords:

Stair, ladder, hatch