

**NC Dept of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal – Engineering Division  
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**Window Replacement – Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings**

**Code:** 2012 NC Residential  
**Section:** R310

**Date:** February 17, 2017

**Question:**

Does a replacement window have to meet the current requirements for emergency escape and rescue openings?

**Answer:**

No, provided the window complies with the following:

- a) The replacement window is the manufacturer's largest standard size window that will fit within the existing frame or rough opening.
- b) The rough opening has not been reconstructed or modified in any manner. If the opening is reconstructed or modified in any manner, then the opening must comply with the current code requirements for emergency escape and rescue openings.
- c) The new window must be the same operating style as the existing window or a style that provides for an equal or greater window opening area than the existing window.

Note: This interpretation assumes that the existing opening complied with the code under which it was originally installed.

*Other web interpretations regarding window replacement requirements can be found at the following links:*

[Window Replacement - Design Pressure Rating](#)

[Window Replacement - Wind-borne Debris Protection](#)

[Window Replacement - Energy Requirements](#)

**Keywords:**