

INFORMAL CODE INTERPRETATION

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202
919-661-5880**

Exterior Egress Door Dimensions

Code: 2012 NC Residential Code

Date: October 12, 2012

Section: R311.2

Question:

Section R311.2 specifies the requirements for the minimum dimensions of at least one exterior egress door, but other exterior doors are not required to comply with the minimum dimensions. Are other exterior egress doors required to meet any minimum dimensions?

Answer:

Yes. Exterior egress doors, in addition to the one required, must meet the 78 inch minimum height requirement but are not required to meet the minimum width. This minimum height dimension is required to be maintained in exterior egress doors to provide the inherent feeling of safety that a door utilized for egress should afford. Other exterior doors, such as a balcony access or ornamental opening, utilized in non-egress applications that are not intended for use in the evacuation of an occupied space are not required to meet the minimum dimensions.

Keywords: