

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**

Fixed Stairway Upper Landing Headroom

Code: 2012 Residential Code

Date: July 2, 2012

Section: R311.7.2

Question:

What is the headroom requirement for the area at the top of a permanent stairway? The stairway does not have a door at the top.

Answer:

Section R311.7.2 defines headroom requirements for stairways. It states:

"The minimum headroom in all parts of the stairway shall not be less than 6 feet, 8 inches."

"All parts" of the stairway includes landings. Therefore, there should be a minimum floor area of 36"x36" at the top of the stairway with a minimum headroom of 6'-8". These clearances are minimums that are required for safety of the occupants for egress and for fire fighting personnel to access the space.

Keywords:

bonus room