



INFORMATION SHEET

No. EG-04 : (Previously numbered E-04)
DATE : July 16, 2014
CATEGORY : Egress
SUBJECT : **Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings:
Correction to SFBC Section 1029.1**

REFERENCE : 2013 San Francisco Building Code
Section 1029, Emergency Escape and Rescue
AB-005, Local Equivalency Case-by-Case Application Procedures
AB-028 Pre-application and Pre-addendum Plan Review Procedures

INTENT : To clarify exceptions from SFBC Section 1029.1 for Group R-1 and R-2 occupancies based on recommendations by email from OSFM (Office of State Fire Marshal)

DISCUSSION :

Over the past couple months the issue of emergency escape and rescue openings in Group R occupancies has been problematic as to when they are or are not required for Group R occupancies, specifically R-1 and R-2 occupancies. Revisions made by ICC to the 2012 International Building Code through their Code Correlation Committee made revisions to Section 1029.1 that removed certain exceptions that the OSFM had previously made modification to. This action was not caught during the development of the 2013 California Building Code and the OSFM intended to maintain the provision for emergency escape and rescue openings in certain Group R occupancies of Types IB, IIB, IIIB and V construction. The OSFM rulemaking documents, including the Statement of Reasons maintained that the OSFM was bringing forward the existing modifications to Section 1029.1 for the 2013 CBC/CFC.

The OSFM has submitted to the Building Standards Commission the following correction to the 2013 California Building and Fire Code. The OSFM may re-address this issue during the 2016 code adoption cycle, however, this corrects the codes and promulgated during the 2013 code adoption cycle.

Correction to SFBC Section 1029.1:

1029.1 General. In addition to the means of egress required by this chapter, provisions shall be made for emergency escape and rescue openings in Group R-2 occupancies in accordance with Tables 1021.2(1) and 1021.2(2) and Group R-3 occupancies. Basements and sleeping rooms below the fourth story above grade plane shall have at least one exterior emergency escape and rescue opening in accordance with this section. Where basements contain one or more sleeping rooms, emergency escape and rescue openings shall be required in each sleeping room, but shall not be required in adjoining areas of the basement. Such openings shall open directly into a public way or to a yard or court that opens to a public way.

Exceptions:

- 1. In Groups R-1 and R-2 occupancies constructed of Type I, Type IIA, Type IIIA or Type IV construction equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1
- 4.2. Basements with a ceiling height of less than 80 inches (2032 mm) shall not be required to have emergency escape and rescue openings.
- 2.3. Emergency escape and rescue openings are not required from basements or sleeping rooms that have an exit door or exit access door that opens directly into a public way or to a yard, court or exterior exit balcony that opens to a public way.
- 3.4. Basements without habitable spaces and having no more than 200 square feet (18.6 m²) in floor area shall not be required to have emergency escape and rescue openings.

OTHER CONDITIONS:

Other conditions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Supervisor or Manager. Pre-application meeting and/or approval of AB-005 is required.

AC *CPT. ALDO BALM*
CHIEF *MICHIE WONG* *07/23/14*

 Michie Wong Date
 Fire Marshal & Assistant Deputy Chief
 San Francisco Fire Department

Tom C. Hui *7/16/14*

 Tom C. Hui, S.E., C.B.O. Date
 Director
 Department of Building Inspection

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