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## FORMAL INTERPRETATION 99-01

**DOCUMENT:** 2007/ 2002 / 1997 Kentucky Building Code (KBC)  
2007/ 2002 Kentucky Residential Code (KRC)  
1995 CABO One and Two Family Dwelling Code

**SUBJECT:** Emergency Escape and Rescue Windows  
Section 1026.2.1 – 2007 KBC / Section R310.1.2 & 310.1.3 2007  
KRC  
Section 1009.2.1 – 2002 KBC / Section R310.1.2 & 310.1.3 2002  
KRC  
Section 1026.2.1 – 1997 KBC  
Section 310.2.1 1995 CABO One and Two Family Dwelling Code

**QUESTION:** Will a window opening comply with the requirements for emergency escape if its minimum net clear opening width dimension is 20 inches and its minimum net clear opening height dimension is 24 inches?

**ANSWER:** No.

**COMMENTARY:** To comply with the opening requirement, the window must also have a minimum net clear opening of 5.7 square feet, unless the window is a grade floor window in which case the minimum net clear opening is 5.0 square feet. The window opening size indicated in the question above only has a minimum net clear opening of 3.3 square feet. If the minimum allowable width of 20 inches is used then the height of the window opening shall be at least 41 inches.

If the minimum allowable window height of 24 inches is used, then the width of the window opening shall be at least 34 inches.

There have been studies made that indicate that the minimum opening sizes listed in the code text are necessary in order for a fireman to maneuver through the window opening with full dress firefighting gear including breathing apparatus and possibly a victim.

  
George E. Mann  
Deputy Commissioner

May 31, 2009  
Date

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