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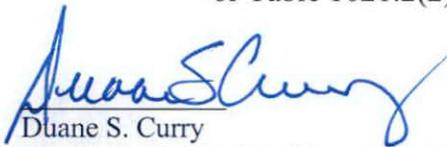
Timothy R. House
Deputy Commissioner

FORMAL INTERPRETATION #2016-02

Document: 2013 Kentucky Building Code
Subject: Emergency Escape Opening Requirements
Section # Kentucky Building Code Sections 1029.1

Question: We have noted in some recent residential (R-2) projects the 2012 IBC revision with regard to egress windows. The exemption which previously existing in the model code for emergency egress windows when qualified automatic fire sprinkler systems were in place is no longer present. We are requesting clarification/interpretation as to how this applies when a building is fully protected with an automatic fire suppression system and two means of egress from each floor.

Answer: The scoping provisions for where emergency escape and rescue openings are required have been "reworded" for the 2012 IBC. Where a Group R-2 building, equipped with an automatic fire suppression system, is provided with a minimum of **two independent exits per story**, as typically required in accordance with Section 1021.2, then Section 1029.1 does **not** require emergency escape and rescue openings. Conversely and as indicated in the first sentence of Section 1029.1, emergency escape and rescue openings **are** required within sleeping rooms of a Group R-2 occupancy where that Group R-2 occupancy only provides **one independent exit per story**, where allowed by Table 1021.2(1) or 1021.2(2). Please note that the requirement for emergency escape and rescue openings is not predicated on whether a particular dwelling unit is provided with just a single exit access door from the unit in accordance with Section 1015.1. The requirement is solely based on the number of exits afforded each occupant within the Group R-2 building. If the Group R-2 building is taking advantage of either Table 1021.2(1) or Table 1021.2(2) then emergency escape and rescue openings are required.


Duane S. Curry

Director and Chief Building Official
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5/06/2016
Date