

**CTC Meeting #27
JUNE 17 – 18, 2013
Child window safety**

The following 2013 Group B changes have been compiled for the above noted CTC Area of Study. Code changes with an (*) indicate CTC sponsored code changes. These changes are intended to serve as the agenda for the CTC in order to establish CTC public comments, if any, for the upcoming 2013 Group B Final Action Hearings. THIS REPORT ONLY INCLUDES THOSE CODE CHANGES FOR WHICH CTC HAS TAKEN A POSITION ON A CODE CHANGE.

EB9-13*
EB15-13

Study group recommendation: A call was held, albeit with limited participation. The views of the SG were that EB 9 should not be pursued and that EB 15 which was As Modified addresses CTC's concerns.

As such, no public comments are recommended.

EB9 – 13
CAH ACTION: D

Proponent: Carl Baldassarra, P.E., Chair, ICC Code Technology Committee
(cbaldassarra@rjagroup.com)

Revise as follows:

602.3 Glazing in hazardous locations. Replacement glazing shall be as required for new installations. Replacement glazing in hazardous locations shall comply with the safety glazing requirements of the *International Building Code* or *International Residential Code* as applicable.

Exception: Glass block walls, louvered windows, and jalousies repaired with like materials.

Add new text as follows:

702.4 Window opening control devices. In Group R-2 or R-3 buildings containing dwelling units, window opening control devices complying with ASTM F2090 shall be installed where an existing window is replaced and where all the following apply to the replacement window:

1. The window is operable;
2. The window replacement includes replacement of the sash and the frame;
3. The top of the sill of the window opening is at a height less than 36 inches (915 mm) above the finished floor;
4. The window will permit openings that will allow passage of a 4-inch diameter (102 mm) sphere when the window is in its largest opened position; and
5. The vertical distance from the top of the sill of the window opening to the finished grade or other surface below, on the exterior of the building, is greater than 72 inches (1829 mm).

The window opening control device, after operation to release the control device allowing the window to fully open, shall not reduce the minimum net clear opening area of the window unit to less than the area required by the International Building Code.

Exceptions:

1. Operable windows where the top of the sill of the window opening is located more than 75 feet (22.86 m) above the finished grade or other surface below, on the exterior of the room, space or building, and that are provided with window fall prevention devices that comply with ASTM F 2006.
2. Operable windows with openings that are provided with window fall prevention devices that comply with ASTM F2090.

702.5 Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings. Where windows are required to provide emergency escape and rescue openings in Group R-2 and R-3 occupancies, replacement windows shall be exempt from the requirements of Sections 1029.2, 1029.3 and 1029.5 of the International Building Code provided the replacement window meets the following conditions:

1. The replacement window is the manufacturer's largest standard size window that will fit within the existing frame or existing rough opening. The replacement window shall be permitted to be of the same operating style as the existing window or a style that provides for an equal or greater window opening area than the existing window.
2. The replacement of the window is not part of a change of occupancy.

Reason: This proposed change is a result of the CTC's investigation of the area of study entitled "Child Window Safety". The scope of the activity is noted as:

To evaluate the necessity of developing code proposals for the inclusion of requirements dealing with the conditions, circumstances and devices for window safety which could reduce the number of falls by children to surfaces below.

The purpose of this proposal is to coordinate the repair and alteration provisions of the IEBC with the changes approved to the IBC/IEBC in the 2012 Group A cycle. Code changes G225-12 and G227-12 were approved as modified by public comment to revise Section 3407 of the IBC (IEBC Section 406 – see below). In addition, Code change G201-12 last cycle removed the existing building provisions from Chapter 34 of the IBC in favor of a reference to the IEBC. This action was subsequently affirmed by the ICC Board as this was a code change related to I-Code scoping.

The IEBC includes 3 compliance methods for existing buildings:

- Prescriptive compliance per Chapter 4
- Work area compliance per Chapters 5 – 13
- Performance compliance per Chapter 14

As noted above, the prescriptive compliance provisions of Chapter 4 have been updated based on the approved code changes noted. Since there are no specific performance provisions in Chapter 14 for windows, this leaves the work area method of Chapters 5 – 13 in need of correlation. The correlation is as follows:

- Chapter 6 Repairs. The approved provisions in Chapter 4 of the IEBC only apply where the entire window is removed. As such, the provisions are not applicable to routine repairs such as the repair of a pane of broken glass. The revised text of Section 602.3 stipulates that only the glazing is required to comply with new construction requirements.
- Chapter 7 Alteration Level 1. In accordance with Section 503, an Alteration Level 1 is one where there is a removal or replacement of existing elements. This of and by itself may not be a complete replacement of the window frame and glass. As such, the proposed new text in Section 702.4 triggers the application of the provisions where "an existing window is replaced".
- Chapter 8 Alteration Level 2. This code change does not include language specifically dealing with Alteration Level 2 as the provisions proposed in Chapter 7 cover Level 2 alterations by virtue of the text of Section 801.2 which requires Level 2 alterations to comply with the requirements of Chapter 7 for Level 1.
- Chapter 9 Alteration Level 3. Similar to Chapter 8 noted above, this code change does not include language specifically dealing with Alteration Level 3 as the provisions proposed in Chapter 7 cover Level 3 alterations by virtue of the text of Section 901.2 which requires Level 3 alterations to comply with the requirements of Chapters 7 and 8.

For reference, the approved IEBC text is as follows:

**IEBC SECTION 406
GLASS REPLACEMENT AND REPLACEMENT WINDOWS**

406.1 Replacement glass. *The installation or replacement of glass shall be as required for new installations.*

406.2 Replacement Window Opening Control Devices. *In Group R-2 or R-3 buildings containing dwelling units, window opening control devices complying with ASTM F2090 shall be installed where an existing window is replaced and where all the following apply to the replacement window:*

1. *The window is operable;*
2. *The window replacement includes replacement of the sash and the frame;*
3. *The top of the sill of the window opening is at a height less than 36 inches (915 mm) above the finished floor;*
4. *The window will permit openings that will allow passage of a 4-inch diameter (102 mm) sphere when the window is in its largest opened position; and*

5. The vertical distance from the top of the sill of the window opening to the finished grade or other surface below, on the exterior of the building, is greater than 72 inches (1829 mm).

The window opening control device, after operation to release the control device allowing the window to fully open, shall not reduce the minimum net clear opening area of the window unit to less than the area required by Section 1029.2.

Exceptions:

1. Operable windows where the top of the sill of the window opening is located more than 75 feet (22.86 m) above the finished grade or other surface below, on the exterior of the room, space or building, and that are provided with window fall prevention devices that comply with ASTM F 2006.
2. Operable windows with openings that are provided with window fall prevention devices that comply with ASTM F2090.

406.3 Replacement Window Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings. Where windows are required to provide emergency escape and rescue openings in Group R-2 and R-3 occupancies, replacement windows shall be exempt from the requirements of Sections 1029.2, 1029.3 and 1029.5 provided the replacement window meets the following conditions:

1. The replacement window is the manufacturer's largest standard size window that will fit within the existing frame or existing rough opening. The replacement window shall be permitted to be of the same operating style as the existing window or a style that provides for an equal or greater window opening area than the existing window.
2. The replacement of the window is not part of a change of occupancy.

This proposal is submitted by the ICC Code Technology Committee. The ICC Board established the ICC Code Technology Committee (CTC) as the venue to discuss contemporary code issues in a committee setting which provides the necessary time and flexibility to allow for full participation and input by any interested party. The code issues are assigned to the CTC by the ICC Board as "areas of study". Information on the CTC, including: meeting agendas; minutes; reports; resource documents; presentations; and all other materials developed in conjunction with the CTC effort can be downloaded from the following website: <http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/CTC/Pages/default.aspx>. Since its inception in April/2005, the CTC has held twenty-five meetings - all open to the public. In 2012, three of the 25 face-to face meetings were held. In addition to the CTC meetings, the CTC established Study Groups (SG) of interested parties for each of the areas of study. These SG's are responsible for reviewing the available information and making recommendations to the CTC. All totaled, the SG's held over 70 conference calls in 2012.

Cost Impact: This code change proposal will not increase the cost of construction.

EB9-13

Public Hearing:	Committee:	AS	AM	D
	Assembly:	ASF	AMF	DF

602.3-EB-BALDASSARRA-CTC.doc

EB9-13

Committee Action:

Disapproved

Committee Reason: The proposal was disapproved as it was felt the modification to Section 602.3 was not necessary. There was also some concern that the rest of the proposal was already addressed in the IBC and was not necessary in the IEBC.

Assembly Action:

None

EB15 – 13

CAH ACTION: AM

Proponent: Jeff Inks, Window & Door Manufacturers Association (jinks@wdma.com)

Revise as follows:

702.1 Interior finishes. All newly installed interior wall and ceiling finishes shall comply with Chapter 8 of the *International Building Code*.

702.2 Interior floor finish. New interior floor finish, including new carpeting used as an interior floor finish material, shall comply with Section 804 of the *International Building Code*.

702.3 Interior trim. All newly installed interior trim materials shall comply with Section 806 of the *International Building Code*.

702.4 Window opening control devices. In Group R-2 or R-3 buildings containing dwelling units and one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses regulated by the *International Residential Code*, window opening control devices complying with ASTM F2090 shall be installed where an existing window is replaced and where all the following apply to the replacement window:

1. The window is operable;
2. The window replacement includes replacement of the sash and the frame;
3. The top of the sill of the window opening is at a height less than 36 inches (915 mm) above the finished floor;
4. The window will permit openings that will allow passage of a 4-inch diameter (102 mm) sphere when the window is in its largest opened position; and
5. The vertical distance from the top of the sill of the window opening to the finished grade or other surface below, on the exterior of the building, is greater than 72 inches (1829 mm).

The window opening control device, after operation to release the control device allowing the window to fully open, shall not reduce the minimum net clear opening area of the window unit to less than the area required by the International Building Code.

Exceptions:

1. Operable windows where the top of the sill of the window opening is located more than 75 feet (22.86 m) above the finished grade or other surface below, on the exterior of the room, space or building, and that are provided with window fall prevention devices that comply with ASTM F 2006.
2. Operable windows with openings that are provided with window fall prevention devices that comply with ASTM F2090.

702.5 Emergency escape and rescue openings. Where windows are required to provide emergency escape and rescue openings in Group R-2 and R-3 occupancies and one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses regulated by the *International Residential Code*, replacement windows shall be exempt from the requirements of Sections 1029.2, 1029.3 and 1029.5 of the *International Building Code* and Sections R310.1.1, R310.1.2, R310.1.3 and R310.2 of the *International Residential Code* accordingly provided the replacement window meets the following conditions:

1. The replacement window is the manufacturer's largest standard size window that will fit within the existing frame or existing rough opening. The replacement window shall be permitted to be of the same operating style as the existing window or a style that provides for an equal or greater window opening area than the existing window.
2. The replacement of the window is not part of a change of occupancy.

Window opening control devices complying with ASTM F 2090 shall be permitted for use on windows required to provide *emergency escape and rescue openings*.

Reason: The intent of this proposal is to ensure window replacements meet the requirements for new construction for window fall protection and emergency escape and rescue openings when practical and avoid discouraging or preventing the replacement of windows when it is not -- provided there is no reduction in existing safety.

With respect to the proposed provisions for window opening control devices on replacement windows, they are intended to ensure window fall protection is provided where required for new construction when windows, including sash and frame, are replaced. The proposed WOCD provisions have already been approved for Chap. 4 of the IEBC (during the Group A proceedings) and are also being proposed for IRC Appendix J by us and the ICC CTC.

With respect to the proposed emergency escape and rescue opening provisions, they are based on Minnesota's residential code which actually (and effectively) incorporates them into the main body of the code in Chapter 3, under Section 310.1. The same provisions have also already been approved for Chap. 4 of the IEBC (during the Group A proceedings) and we, as well as the ICC CTC are also proposing the same provisions for IRC Appendix J (in addition to this proposal for the IEBC). Most importantly, it's important to note that the provisions do not allow for any decrease in safety and will help ensure improvements in safety can be made.

More specifically, the intent of this proposal is to ensure that the IRC does not discourage or prevent improvements in emergency escape and rescue openings, especially for fire safety, in older residential occupancies by requiring replacement

windows to meet all of the provisions of Section 310 when doing so can only be accomplished by increasing the size of the rough opening or altering the interior wall.

Because many of these older buildings were constructed under codes that did not include the same emergency escape and rescue opening provisions that the IBC or IRC now require for new construction, the only way to fully meet all of the requirements of IBC Section 1029 or IRC Section 310 for new construction if required when windows are replaced, is to enlarge the rough opening and/or make significant alterations to the interior wall in order to accommodate any increase in window size or lowering of a sill.

At the very least, the significant cost and design challenges of altering the rough opening or interior wall can discourage or prevent window replacement and at worst can discourage or prevent the replacement of older windows that are harder to operate or inoperable all together because of their age or poor maintenance and, that are significantly less energy efficient. When that happens, improvements to safety as well as to energy efficiency are needlessly compromised.

Furthermore and on the whole, while some bedroom windows in older homes may not provide the full clear opening that is required for new construction or may have a sill height above 44 inches, they nonetheless still provide a viable emergency and escape rescue opening which is the primary intent of the code. Replacement of these windows with the same type of operating window or other type that can provide an equal or greater clear opening than the existing window -- even if they do not fully meet the clear opening or sill height requirements of IBC Section 1029 or IRC Section 310 accordingly -- is always an improvement in safety, especially when a replacement opening can provide a larger clear opening than the existing window. Such improvements in safety should not be discouraged or prevented by overly onerous requirements for replacement windows.

This proposal will help ensure that doesn't happen by providing limited exceptions to the requirements of IBC Section 1029 and IRC Section 310 accordingly that can only be applied when certain conditions are met and that as already noted, will not result in a decrease in safety.

The requirements for new construction that emergency escape and rescue openings be provided as well as the operational requirements of IBC Section 1029 and IRC Section 310 respectively are maintained and still applicable to replacement windows.

Cost Impact: This code change proposal will not increase the cost of construction.

EB15-13

Public Hearing: Committee: AS AM D
Assembly: ASF AMF DF

702.4 (NEW)-EB-INKS.doc

EB15-13

Committee Action:

Approved as Modified

Modify the proposal as follows:

702.4 Window opening control devices. In Group R-2 or R-3 buildings containing dwelling units and one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses regulated by the *International Residential Code*, window opening control devices complying with ASTM F2090 shall be installed where an existing window is replaced and where all the following apply to the replacement window:

1. The window is operable;
2. The window replacement includes replacement of the sash and the frame;
3. In Group R-2 or R-3 buildings containing dwelling units, the top of the sill of the window opening is at a height less than 36 inches (915 mm) above the finished floor, or in one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses regulated by the *International Residential Code*, the top of the sill of the window opening is at a height less than 24 inches (610 mm) above the finished floor;
4. The window will permit openings that will allow passage of a 4-inch diameter (102 mm) sphere when the window is in its largest opened position; and
5. The vertical distance from the top of the sill of the window opening to the finished grade or other surface below, on the exterior of the building, is greater than 72 inches (1829 mm).

The window opening control device, after operation to release the control device allowing the window to fully open, shall not reduce the minimum net clear opening area of the window unit to less than the area required by the *International Building Code*.

Exceptions:

1. Operable windows where the top of the sill of the window opening is located more than 75 feet (22.86 m) above the finished grade or other surface below, on the exterior of the room, space or building, and that are provided with window fall prevention devices that comply with ASTM F 2006.
2. Operable windows with openings that are provided with window fall prevention devices that comply with ASTM F2090.

702.5 Emergency escape and rescue openings. Where windows are required to provide emergency escape and rescue openings in Group R-2 and R-3 occupancies and one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses regulated by the *International Residential Code*, replacement windows shall be exempt from the requirements of Sections 1029.2, 1029.3 and 1029.5 of the *International Building Code* and Sections R310.1.1, R310.1.2, R310.1.3 and R310.2 of the *International Residential Code* accordingly provided the replacement window meets the following conditions:

1. The replacement window is the manufacturer's largest standard size window that will fit within the existing frame or existing rough opening. The replacement window shall be permitted to be of the same operating style as the existing window or a style that provides for an equal or greater window opening area than the existing window.
2. The replacement of the window is not part of a change of occupancy.

Window opening control devices complying with ASTM F 2090 shall be permitted for use on windows required to provide *emergency escape and rescue openings*.

Committee Reason: The proposal was preferred to EB9-13. The provisions were seen necessary to address the replacement windows with regard to fall safety and emergency escape and rescue openings in existing buildings. The proposal was similar to EB9-13 but did not add revisions to Section 602.3 or one and two family dwelling. One and two family dwellings can be addressed by the IEBC. The modification adds clarification that the window opening control device requirement has a different applicability to one and two family dwellings than Group R-2 or R-3 buildings. One and two family dwellings are permitted to have a window opening as low as 24 inches above the finished floor versus 36 inches. This is more consistent with the IRC as a trigger for window opening control devices.

Assembly Action:

None
