

TOWNSHIP CODE AUTHORITY
989-837-6521

2003 Michigan Residential Code

Emergency Escapes and Rescue Openings

The following information is quoted directly from the 2003 Michigan Residential Code (2003MRC):

“R310.1 Emergency escape and rescue required. Basements with habitable space and every sleeping room shall have at least one open able emergency escape and rescue opening. Where basements contain one or more sleeping rooms, emergency egress and rescue opening shall be required in each sleeping room, but shall not be required in adjoining areas of the basement. Where emergency escape and rescue opening are provided they shall have sill height of not more than 44 inches (1118mm) above the floor. Where a door opening having a threshold below the adjacent ground elevation serves as an emergency escape and rescue opening and is provided with a bulkhead enclosure, the bulkhead enclosure shall comply with Section 310.3. The net clear opening dimensions required by this section shall be obtained by the normal operation of the emergency escape and rescue opening from the inside. Emergency escape and rescue openings with a finished sill height below the adjacent ground elevation shall be provided with a window well in accordance with R310.2.

R310.1.1 Minimum opening area. All emergency escape and rescue openings shall have a net clear opening of 5.7 square feet (0.530 m²).

Exception: Grade floor openings shall have a minimum net clear opening of 5 square feet (0.465 m²).

R310.1.3 Minimum opening width. The minimum net clear opening width shall be 24 inches (508mm).

R310.1.4. Operational constraints. Emergency escape and rescue openings shall be operation from the inside of the room without the use of keys or tools.”

“R311.4 Doors

R311.4.1 Exit door required. Not less than one exit door conforming to this section shall be provided for each dwelling unit. The required exit door shall provide for direct access from habitable portions of the dwelling to the exterior without requiring travel through a garage. Access to habitable levels not having an exit in accordance to this section shall be by ramp in accordance with Section 311.6 or a stairway in accordance with Section 311.5.

R311.4.2 Type and size. The required exit door shall be side-hinged door not less than 4 feet (913mm) in width and 6 feet, 8 inches (2032mm) in height. Other exterior hinged or sliding doors shall not be less than 24 inches (610mm) in width and 6 feet, 5 inches (1981mm) in height.”

Questions regarding any of the above may be directed to a Building Inspector at the above listed office telephone number.