



**Informal Interpretation Report  
Number 8431**



**Date** August 10, 2020

**Edition** 2017

**Section** R310.1.1

**Question:**

Can R310.1.1 apply to window latch height? If a window latch is 7' from the finished floor and you would need a stick, chair, or ladder to reach it, would that be considered needing a "tool or special knowledge"? Anyone under 5' 5" may have trouble getting out in an emergency. That would include children and probably a larger number of women. The windows in question would not be easy to break as they are impact rated.

**Answer**

No. For a one-two family dwelling, code does not specify latch height criteria

**Commentary:**

It is not stated that this is new residential construction or an existing building.  
The only clear information is in the 2015 IRC code Commentary is this.

"It is impractical to assume that all occupants can operate a window that requires a special sequence of operations to achieve the required opening size." Code is not specific on the height of latches.

---

**Notice:**

The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation, ICC, and industry and professional experts offer this interpretation of the Florida Building Code in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This interpretation is informal, non-binding and subject to acceptance and approval by the local building official.