



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 8536**



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Section 702.5

Question:

Is it the intent of section 702.5(1) and 505.3(1) Replacement window emergency escape and rescue openings; to be interpreted as “The replacement window shall be permitted to be the same operating style as the existing window” and stop there; or; does “provides for an equal or greater window opening area that the existing window” apply to both the “same operating style” (single hung for single hung, slider for slider) and “a style” (impact vs non-impact)?

Answer

If you use the same style window the opening area could be reduced if that is the largest size window that will fit in the rough opening. If a different style window is to be used it must provide an opening size equal or greater than what was existing

Commentary:

In Chapter 3, the code gives a person 3 options of compliance - Prescriptive (chapter 5), Work Area (chapters 6-13) and Performance (chapter 14). Do NOT mix the different criteria found in these areas. Chapter 5 is different than what you find in chapter 7. That is why it's important to know from the owner, what means/method they are trying to comply with.

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.