



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: June 24, 2013

To: Code Services Staff

From: Brad Claussen, Building Official

Subject: Measurement of Casement Style Egress Windows

I am aware that there are certain casement types of windows which are marketed as “egress” compliant windows but which do not open to a full 90 degrees. The code requires a 20” wide opening for an egress window in new construction. However, the code is silent on how that 20” opening is to be measured. In checking with an ICC Senior staff member, we agreed that the window does not have to open to 90 degrees as long as it has the required clear width. Therefore, we would measure between the edge of the window frame and the nearest obstruction, and then swing an arc from there. As long as nothing impedes in that area, and it is at least 20” in width, the window complies with the code for egress purposes.

Please let me know if you have any questions.