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to ensure safe building
construction while
supporting a positive
business climate.*

No: R102.7.1 (Replaces I.R. 92-21)

Code Section: R102.7.1, R308.4 and N1104.4.4

Code Edition: 2008 *Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC)*

Date: July 15, 2009

Subject: Replacement of existing glazing.

Question: When replacing glazing in existing buildings does the framed opening have to be altered to meet current code requirements for emergency egress?

Answer: No.

Analysis: Section R102.7.1 states in part “.....Additions, alterations or repairs shall not cause an existing structure to become unsafe or adversely affect the performance of the building.”.

Removing an existing window and replacing it with a new one that is the same size, and where no structural member is changed, does not trigger the new egress requirements, nor does it *create* an unsafe or *adverse* condition. However, if the size of opening is altered, the window must meet the egress requirements specified in Section R310.1.

Whether or not the windows structural opening size is changed, the new window(s) is required to meet current code requirements for safety glazing and energy efficiency. Those provisions can be found in the following locations:

1) Section **R308.4** lists 11 locations where safety glazing is required. There are also 10 exceptions for products, materials and uses that may apply.

2) Section **N1104.4.4 Alterations** states: “New windows shall have a maximum U-factor of 0.40.”

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