

STATE BUILDING CODE STATE BUILDING COMMISSION Code Interpretation No. 13-001  
 INTERPRETATION FORM One Capitol Hill Code Section AJ102.4  
 Providence, RI. 02908-5859 Date of Staff Preparation 1-28-2014  
 (401) 222-3033

INQUIRER General Question TITLE Replacement Fenestration

JURISDICTION / ORGANIZATION Statewide

ADDRESS XXX TOWN XXX STATE RI. ZIP XXX

<input type="checkbox"/>	BUILDING CODE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1&2 FAMILY CODE	<input type="checkbox"/>	ELECTRICAL CODE
<input type="checkbox"/>	MECHANICAL CODE	<input type="checkbox"/>	PLUMBING CODE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ENERGY CODE
<input type="checkbox"/>	ACCESSIBILITY CODE	<input type="checkbox"/>	FUEL AND GAS CODE	<input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER

**QUESTION:**

As Permits are required for replacement windows, do those replacement windows have to comply with all the requirements of the code for new windows

**THIS INTERPRETATION IS ISSUED TO RECALL AND REPLACE PRIOR INTERPRETATION 04-182 (9-16-2004)**

**RESPONSE: NO:**

COMMENT: There are six criteria that a new residential wind must comply with:

1. **Uo Rating** (U = 0.35) / (U=0.55 skylight)
2. **Air Leakage** (R 1102.4)
3. **Windborne Debris** (zone 3 only)
4. **Wind Pressure** (Table 301.2(2))
5. **Solar Heat Gain** (SHGC) (NR)
6. **Egress Window Size** (R 310..1)

When window replacement is accomplished in existing structures in SBC-2 One and Two Family Dwelling Code the proper starting place is in;

**Appendix J Existing Buildings and Structures**

**AJ101.1 General.** *The purpose of these provisions is to encourage the continued use or reuse of legally existing buildings and structures. These provisions are intended to permit work in existing buildings that is consistent with the purpose of RI One and Two Family Dwelling Code. Compliance with these provisions shall be deemed to meet the requirements of RI One and Two Family Dwelling Code.*

**AJ102.1 General.** *Regardless of the category of work being performed, the work shall not cause the structure to become unsafe or adversely affect the performance of the building; shall not cause an existing mechanical or plumbing system to become unsafe, hazardous, insanitary or overloaded; and unless expressly permitted by these provisions, shall not make the building any less conforming to this code or to any previously approved alternative arrangements than it was before the work was undertaken.*

**AJ102.4 Replacement windows.** *Regardless of the category of work, when an existing window, including sash and glazed portion is replaced, the replacement window shall comply with the requirements of Chapter 11.*

Moving to Chapter 11 Energy Efficiency of SBC-2 replacement windows are addressed in the following article.

**N1102.3.6 Replacement fenestration.** *Where some or all of an existing fenestration unit is replaced with a new fenestration product, including sash and glazing, the replacement fenestration unit shall meet the applicable requirements for U-factor and solar heat gain coefficient (SHGC) in Table N1102.1.*

Summarized then; The existing building chapter of the One and Two Family Dwelling Code per Appendix J allows for replacement of existing windows to a standard that meets the "energy efficiency standards" only; Items 1, 2, and 5 as listed in Chapter 11 conditional upon them not being less compliant than the units replaced relative to items 3, 4, and 6 noted in the comment section above. Any glazed panel in any location undergoing repair or replacement must always comply with Human Impact Protection per AJ 301.3

**AJ301.3 Safety glazing.**

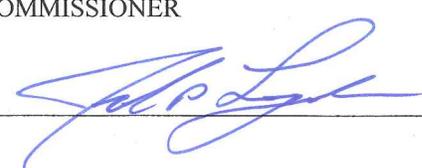
*Replacement glazing in hazardous locations shall comply with the safety glazing requirements of Section R308.1.*

PREPARED BY:

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DATE:

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1/28/14