



## FLORIDA BUILDING CODE BINDING INTERPRETATION



Date: April 11, 2008

Report # 36

Petitioner: Dwight E. Holmes

Year: 2004

Code: Building

Section: Section 1025

Question: Do the requirements of Section 1025 of the Florida Building Code – Building prohibit the installation of side hinged, in-swinging casement windows installed to meet the emergency escape and rescue window requirement in a classroom?

Answer: No.

Commentary: In the response to the petition, the Building Official states “The FBC clearly requires all doors in exit pathways to open out in the direction of exit travel.” This is not exactly as reflected in FBC Section 1008.1.2, which reads, ‘Doors shall swing in the direction of egress travel where serving an occupant load of 50 or more persons or a Group H occupancy.’ These windows are not doors.

The issue of whether the plans showed the windows swinging in or out, or did not indicate a swing is not relevant to the Florida Building Code requirement. The Codes (and Statutes) require the window in certain classrooms as stated above but it does not specify the direction of swing for side swinging windows. This may be a legal issue, based on the design or contract documents, but it does not violate the Code, which does not address the swing of these windows.

***Notice:***

***The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Community Affairs, industry and professional experts offer this interpretation of the Florida Building Codes in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This interpretation is formal and binding statewide.***