



Removal of Egress Requirements

Technical Bulletin

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Applicable Standards:

FORTIFIED Home™–Hurricane

Applicable Designation Level:



Removal of Egress Requirement for Entry Doors

Notice of Removal of Requirement

Currently, Section 5.3 of the 2020 FORTIFIED Home™–Hurricane Standard (FORTIFIED Silver™ and FORTIFIED Gold™ designation levels only) requires at least one entry door to be operable from inside the living space when opening protection is in place.

Effective immediately, FORTIFIED has removed this requirement.

5.3 Entry Doors (Hurricane Designation Only)

- For Hurricane designation only, all entry doors must be protected from impact by one of the following two options:
 - **Option 1:** Entry doors are impact-rated (refer to [section 2.7](#))
 - **Option 2:** Entry doors have qualified impact-rated opening protection systems (refer to [section 2.7](#))
- For Hurricane designation only, at least one exterior entry door must be operable from inside the living space when opening protection is in place.

Additional Information

The FORTIFIED program is intended to improve the resistance of homes and their contents to damage caused by wind, wind-driven rain, and hail. The egress requirement included in Section 5.3 addresses a life safety issue. As such, it falls outside the scope of FORTIFIED and should be addressed by the local building code and the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ). Removal of the egress requirement from this FORTIFIED standard eliminates the potential for unintentional conflicts with local building codes and AHJs.

While the requirement is being eliminated, it will be replaced with “best practice” guidance. Homeowners will be *encouraged* to follow local code requirements to ensure proper egress is available when opening protection, such as hurricane shutters or hurricane fabric, is installed. This change will be reflected in the next edition of the FORTIFIED Home Standard. Until then, this Technical Bulletin serves as documentation of the change.

