Basements, habitable attics and every sleeping room shall have at least one operable emergency escape and rescue opening. Where basements contain one of more sleeping rooms, emergency egress and rescue openings shall be required in each sleeping room. (CBC 1029.1 & R310.1)

The units shall be operable to provide a full clear opening without the use of separate tools. Bars, grills, grates, or any similar devices are permitted on emergency escape and rescue openings provided:

- Such devices shall be releasable or removable from the inside without the use of a key, tool, special knowledge or effort or force greater than that which is required for normal operation of the escape and rescue opening.

- They shall also be equipped with exterior release device for use by the fire department. The device shall remain operable at all times.

- Where such devices are installed, smoke alarms shall be installed in accordance with the code regardless of the valuation of the alteration and must comply with all other applicable provisions of the code.