

# **NEW YORK STATE CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR FINISHED BASEMENTS IN EXISTING BUILDINGS**

## **LIGHT REQUIREMENTS (GLASS AREA)**

GLASS AREA EQUAL TO 8% OF THE FLOOR AREA IS REQUIRED, .OR  
ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING CAPABLE OF PROVIDING AN AVERAGE OF 6  
FOOTCANDLES 30 INCHES ABOVE THE FLOOR.

## **VENTILATION REQUIREMENTS (SCREEN AREA)**

WINDOW OPENING AREA (SCREEN AREA) EQUAL TO 4% OF THE FLOOR  
AREA IS REQUIRED, OR A MECHANICAL VENTILATION SYSTEM CAPABLE  
OF PROVIDING A 0.35 AIR EXCHANGE PER HOUR.

## **EGRESS REQUIREMENTS**

ANY HABITABLE SPACE AND ALL SLEEPING ROOMS IN BASEMENTS  
MUST HAVE AN SECOND MEANS OF EGRESS WITH A MINIMUM OPEN AREA  
OF 5.7 SQUARE FEET WITH A MINIMUM HEIGHT OF 24 INCHES AND A  
MINIMUM WIDTH OF 20 INCHES AND CAN NOT BE MORE THEN 44 INCHES  
OFF THE FLOOR. BILCO STAIRWELLS DO QUALIFY.

## **CEILING HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS**

MINIMUM CEILING HEIGHT FOR HABITABLE SPACE IN BASEMENTS SHALL  
BE 6 FEET 8 INCHES FROM THE FINISHED FLOOR. BEAMS, GIRDERS, DUCTS  
AND OTHER OBSTRUCTIONS MAY PROJECT TO WITHIN 6 FEET 4 INCHES OF  
THE FINISHED FLOOR.

## **SMOKE ALARMS AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS**

SMOKE ALARMS AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS WILL BE REQUIRED  
TO BE INSTALLED THROUGHOUT THE RESIDENCE-  
ONE SMOKE ALARM IN EVERY SLEEPING ROOM  
ONE SMOKE ALARM OUTSIDE EVERY SLEEPING ROOM  
ONE SMOKE ALARM AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM ON EVERY FLOOR  
LEVEL

# **FINISHED BASEMENT PLAN SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

## **1. FLOOR PLAN WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION**

- **DIMENSIONS AND USE OF ALL SPACES IN THE BASEMENT.**
- **LOCATION, MAKE, MODEL AND SIZE OF ALL WINDOWS.**
- **BEAM, GIRDER, DUCT AND OTHER OBSTRUCTION LOCATIONS WITH MEASUREMENTS FROM FINISHED FLOOR TO FINISHED CEILING.**
- **ALL OTHER CEILING HEIGHTS FROM FINISHED FLOOR TO FINISHED CEILING.**
- **LOCATION, MAKE, MODEL AND SIZE OF EGRESS WINDOW.**
- **LOCATION AND TYPE OF ALL MECHANICAL LIGHTING.**
- **TYPE AND LOCATION OF SECONDARY VENTILATION SYSTEM IF REQUIRED.**
- **LOCATION OF BILCOS AND MAIN STAIRS**
- **LOCATION AND PURPOSE OF ANY NEW PLUMBING**

## **2. HVAC INFORMATION**

- **TYPE OF FURNACE AND WATER HEATER.**
- **LOCATION AND EFFICEINCIES**

## **3. PROVIDE RADON TEST RESULTS OR NOTE IF A REMOVAL SYSTEM IS PRESENT.**