

## SECTION R311 MEANS OF EGRESS

**R311.1 Means of egress.** All *dwelling*s shall be provided with a means of egress as provided in this section. The means of egress shall provide a continuous and unobstructed path of vertical and horizontal egress travel from all portions of the *dwelling* to the exterior of the *dwelling* at the required egress door without requiring travel through a garage.

**R311.2 Egress door.** At least one egress door shall be provided for each *dwelling* unit. The egress door shall be side-hinged, and shall provide a minimum clear width of 32 inches (813 mm) when measured between the face of the door and the stop, with the door open 90 degrees (1.57 rad). The minimum clear height of the door opening shall not be less than 78 inches (1981 mm) in height measured from the top of the threshold to the bottom of the stop. Other doors shall not be required to comply with these minimum dimensions. Egress doors shall be readily openable from inside the *dwelling* without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort.

**R311.3 Floors and landings at exterior doors.** There shall be a landing or floor on each side of each exterior door. The width of each landing shall not be less than the door served. Every landing shall have a minimum dimension of 36 inches (914 mm) measured in the direction of travel. Exterior landings shall be permitted to have a slope not to exceed  $\frac{1}{4}$  unit vertical in 12 units horizontal (2-percent).

**Exception:** Exterior balconies less than 60 square feet (5.6 m<sup>2</sup>) and only accessible from a door are permitted to have a landing less than 36 inches (914 mm) measured in the direction of travel.

**R311.3.1 Floor elevations at the required egress doors.** Landings or floors at the required egress door shall not be more than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches (38 mm) lower than the top of the threshold.

**Exception:** The exterior landing or floor shall not be more than  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches (196 mm) below the top of the threshold provided the door does not swing over the landing or floor.

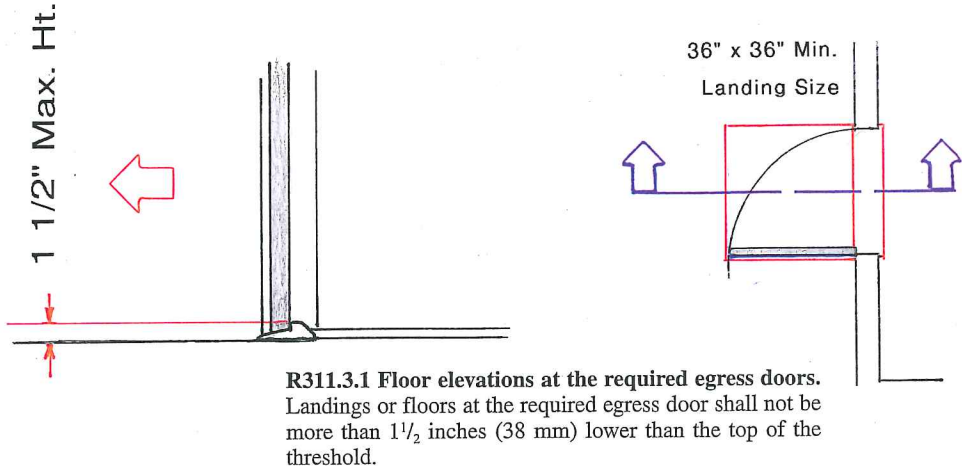
When exterior landings or floors serving the required egress door are not at *grade*, they shall be provided with access to *grade* by means of a ramp in accordance with Section R311.8 or a stairway in accordance with Section R311.7.

**R311.3.2 Floor elevations for other exterior doors.** Doors other than the required egress door shall be provided with landings or floors not more than  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches (196 mm) below the top of the threshold.

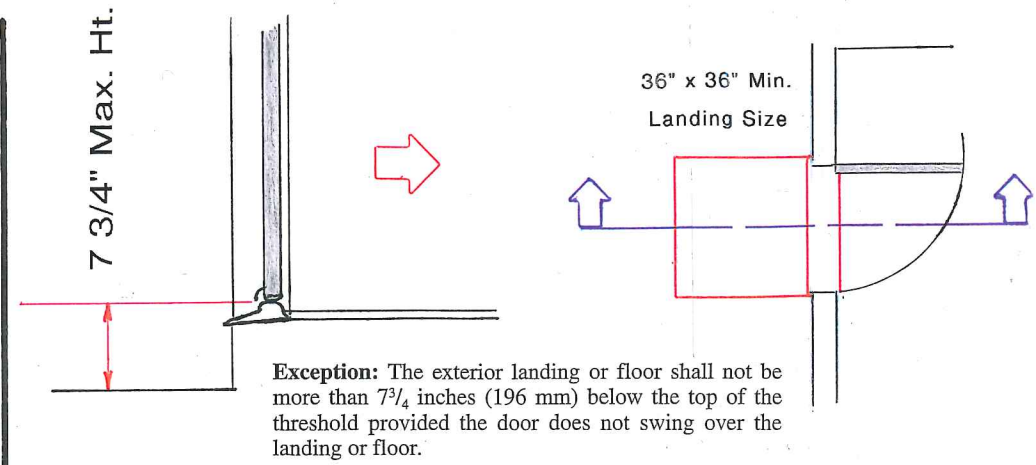
**Exception:** A landing is not required where a stairway of two or fewer risers is located on the exterior side of the door, provided the door does not swing over the stairway.

**R311.3.3 Storm and screen doors.** Storm and screen doors shall be permitted to swing over all exterior stairs and landings.

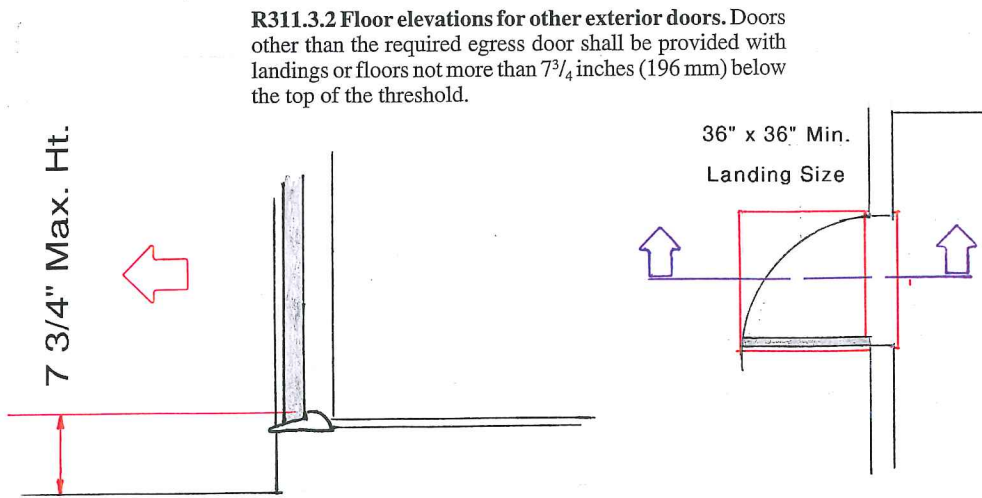
## Threshold & Landing Heights under the 2010 CA. Residential Code



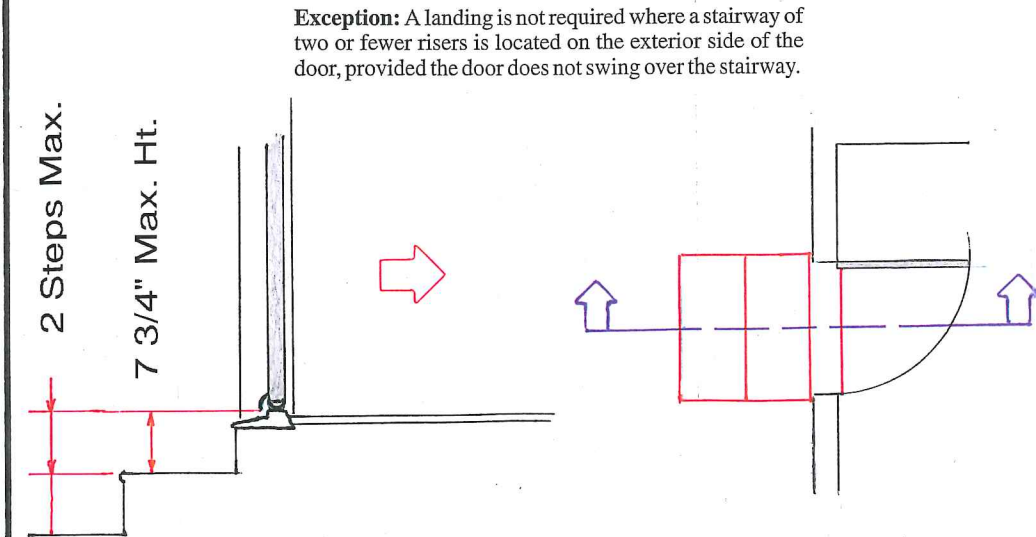
Case #1 Out-Swing Door at Required Egress Door



Case #2 In-Swing Door at Required Egress Door



Case #3 Out-Swing Door at Other Exterior Doors



Case #4 In-Swing Door at Other Exterior Doors