

# Fire Escape Information



Egress literally means "a path out" or "to emerge", and these words directly apply to the design principles behind the Egress window. In case of an emergency, windows installed in any sleeping room must pass strict regulations so if a fire was to occur, the people inside can escape.

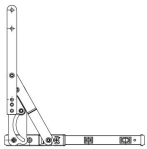
Approved Document B (Fire safety) – Volume 1 B1 Section 2 states that:

Any window provided for emergency egress purposes and any external door provided for escape should comply with the following conditions:

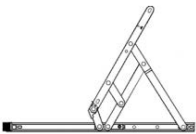
The window should have an unobstructed openable area that is at least 0.33m<sup>2</sup> and at least 450mm high and 450mm wide (the route through the window may be at an angle rather than straight through). The bottom of the openable area should be not more than 1100mm above the floor; and  
The window or door should enable the person escaping to reach a place free from danger from fire.

The difference between a normal Defender friction hinge and an Egress is that a true egress will open to 90°, giving an open area of at least 0.33m<sup>2</sup>.

The below illustration is an example egress friction hinge in its open position:



Although the maximum a standard Defender friction hinge can open to is 80° - only 10° less than the Egress - it would not open enough to comply with the Building Regulations, as seen below: As the window is opened, the pivot point slides towards the centre of the frame, therefore decreasing the opening area of the window.



A frequent question about egress hinges is: "can it be restricted?" The answer is, yes it can if you use the correct hinge. The Restricted Egress Friction hinge will initially only open to a maximum of 100mm. To open it to the full ventilation position requires coordinated two handed operation. This makes the hinges ideal for fitting on a window in a small child's bedroom or area where someone may accidentally fall out.

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## Means of Fire Escape

