




CITY OF CHICAGO

# DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

## CODE MEMORANDUM

To: Department of Buildings Plan Examiners and Inspectors

From: Judith Frydland   
Commissioner

Date: April 11, 2016

Re: **Skylights Used for Natural Light and Ventilation**

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Skylights may be used to provide required natural light and natural ventilation to rooms and spaces. Skylights are considered a source of direct natural light. Skylights when operable/ (capable of being opened and closed to the exterior atmosphere by the occupants of the room or space when required) are considered a direct source of natural ventilation. The use of skylights to provide light and ventilation is subject to the following requirements:

1. When used as the only source of natural light, the skylight shall be of clear glazing and have an exterior glazing area of not less than 8 percent of the floor area requiring natural light.
2. When used as the only source for natural ventilation the minimal operable area of the skylight which can be opened to the exterior shall be not less than 4 percent of the floor area requiring natural ventilation.
3. When used in combination with other approved sources (windows, glazed doors etc.) to provide natural light for rooms or spaces, the skylight(s) shall be of clear glazing and shall be sized so that in combination with the other sources of direct light that serve the space or room, the total required natural light for the room or space is achieved.
4. When used in combination with other approved sources to provide natural ventilation for rooms or spaces, the operable area of the skylight(s) that can be opened to the exterior shall be sized so that in combination with the other sources of natural ventilation that serve the space or room, the total required natural ventilation for the room or space is achieved.