Fixed Stairway Upper Landing Headroom

Code: 2006 Residential Code  Date: October 1, 2007
Section: R311.5.2

Question:
What is the headroom requirement for the area at the top of a permanent stairway? The stairway does not have a door at the top.

Answer:
Section R311.5.2 defines headroom requirements for stairways. It states:
"The minimum headroom in all parts of the stairway shall not be less than 6 feet, 8 inches."

"All parts" of the stairway includes landings. Therefore, there should be a minimum floor area of 36"x36" at the top of the stairway with a minimum headroom of 6′-8″. These clearances are minimums that are required for safety of the occupants for egress and for fire fighting personnel to access the space.

Keywords:
bonus room, clearance