

Highlights of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101[®] - Life Safety Code[®] 2006 & NFPA 5000[™]

Building Construction & Safety Code 2006

Locks, Latches, and Alarm Devices (NFPA 101[®]: 7.2.1.5, NFPA 5000[™]: 11.2.1.5.2)

Locks, if provided, shall not require the use of a key, tool, or special knowledge or effort for operation from the egress side...

- except as specifically allowed by the occupancy chapters
- exterior doors shall be permitted to have key-operated locks from the egress side as long as:
 - exception is permitted in the occupancy chapters for the specific occupancy, and
 - on or adjacent to the door there is a sign (THIS DOOR TO REMAIN OPEN WHEN THE BUILDING IS OCCUPIED), and
 - locking device is of a type that is readily distinguishable as locked, and
 - key is immediately available to any occupant inside the building when door is locked
- these provisions may be revoked by the AHJ for cause
- where permitted by the occupancy chapters, key operation shall be permitted, provided that the key can't be removed when the door is locked from the egress side

Stairwell Reentry (NFPA 101[®]: 7.2.1.5.7, NFPA 5000[™]:11.2.1.5.8.1)

Every door in a stair enclosure serving more than four stories shall meet one of the following criteria:

- re-entry from the stair enclosure to the interior of the building shall be provided,
- an automatic release actuated by the fire alarm system shall unlock all stair enclosure doors to provide reentry
- selected reentry - selected doors shall be permitted to have locking hardware, provided that
 - at least 2 levels are unlocked, there aren't more than 4 stories between unlocked floors, and
 - the top or next to the top floor is unlocked, signage on the stair side identifies unlocked doors, and
 - signage on the stair side of locked doors indicates the location of the nearest unlocked door in each direction

The following applications are not required to comply:

- existing installations as permitted in the occupancy chapters
- stairs serving a building permitted to have a single exit in accordance with the occupancy chapters
- stairs in health care occupancies where otherwise provided in the occupancy chapter
- stairs in detention and correctional occupancies where otherwise provided in the occupancy chapter

Notes: In this Code Reference Guide, "fire protection system" means an approved sprinkler system, approved fire alarm system, or both. Numbers in brackets () refer to applicable sections of the code publication.

Stair to Roof (NFPA 101[®]: 7.2.1.5.8, NFPA 5000[™]: 11.2.1.5.9)

If a stair enclosure allows access to the roof, the door to the roof either shall be kept locked or shall allow re-entry from the roof

Releasing Devices (NFPA 101[®]: 7.2.1.5.9 - 7.2.1.5.11, NFPA 5000[™]: 11.2.1.5.10 - 11.2.1.5.12)

- latch or other fastening device on a door shall be provided with a releasing device having an obvious method of operation under all lighting conditions
- releasing mechanism (except existing installations) shall be located between 34" and 48" above the finished floor. Doors shall be openable with not more than 1 releasing operation
 - exception: egress doors from individual living units and guest rooms of Residential Occupancies may require 2 releasing operations, as long as no key is required for egress and both mechanisms are less than 48" A.F.F. (existing security devices complying with this exception may have three releasing operations - devices that are not automatic latching may be located up to 60" A.F.F.)
- each leaf of a pair in a means of egress shall have its own releasing device, and each device has to operate independently (can't require 1 device to be released before the other), except
 - where automatic flush bolts are used, the door leaf with the flush bolts shall have no doorknob or surface-mounted hardware - unlatching any leaf shall not require more than 1 operation
 - no additional locking device (padlock, hasp, chain, deadbolt, etc.) shall be installed on a door which requires panic hardware

Delayed Egress Locks (NFPA 101®: 7.2.1.6.1, NFPA 5000™: 11.2.1.6.1)

Approved, listed, delayed egress locks shall be permitted on doors serving low and ordinary hazard contents in buildings protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic fire detection system or sprinkler system, where permitted by chapters 12-42, provided that:

- doors unlock upon actuation of the sprinkler system, any heat detector, or up to 2 smoke detectors, and
- doors unlock upon loss of power controlling the locking mechanism, and
- an irreversible process (such as pushing the door or touchpad) releases the lock within 15 (AHJ can approve a delay of up to 30 seconds) upon application to the release device (15 lbf for not more than 3 seconds), and
- initiation of the release process activates an audible signal in the vicinity of the door, and
- after release, locking shall be by manual means only, and
- signage on egress side of door (PUSH UNTIL ALARM SOUNDS. DOOR CAN BE OPENED IN 15 SECONDS)

Access-Controlled Egress Doors (NFPA 101®: 7.2.1.6.2, NFPA 5000™: 11.2.1.6.2)

Where permitted in the occupancy chapters, doors in the means of egress shall be permitted to have an approved entrance and egress access control system, provided that:

- one of the following shall be provided:
 - a sensor on the egress side unlocks the door upon detection of an occupant approaching the door, or
 - listed panic or fire exit hardware that, when operated, unlocks the door, and
- loss of power to the sensor unlocks the door, and loss of power to the lock unlocks the door, and
- manual release device adjacent to the door unlocks the door, must have signage (PUSH TO EXIT), and must result in direct interruption of power to the lock, and door remains unlocked for at least 30 seconds, and
- if the building has a fire protection system, actuation of the fire protection system automatically unlocks the door, and the door remains unlocked until the fire protection system is manually reset

Panic Hardware (NFPA 101®: 7.2.1.7, NFPA 5000™: 11.2.1.7)

- actuating portion of device must extend at least 1/2 the width of the door leaf
- device must be mounted between 34" and 48" above finished floor (A.F.F.) (30" to 48" for existing applications)
- door locations requiring panic hardware are listed within the individual occupancy chapters:
 - means of egress doors in Assembly, Day Care, and Educational Occupancies with an occupant load of 100 or more persons shall be permitted to have a latch or lock only if it is panic hardware
 - doors serving high hazard contents areas with occupant loads of more than five shall be permitted to have a latch or lock only if it is panic hardware
- required panic hardware (except as allowed for Detention & Correctional Occupancies), shall not be equipped with any locking device, set screw, or other arrangement that prevents the release of the latch when pressure is applied to the releasing device
- fire exit hardware may not be equipped with devices to hold the latch retracted unless the devices are listed and approved for such purposes

Self-Closing Devices (NFPA 101®: 7.2.1.8, NFPA 5000™: 11.2.1.8)

Doors designed to normally be kept closed in a means of egress shall be a self-closing door and shall not be secured in the open position, except:

- where allowed by NFPA 101®/5000 or the AHJ, doors can be automatic closing, if
 - upon release of the hold-open mechanism, the door becomes self-closing, and
 - door can be easily released manually, and
 - releasing mechanism is activated by the building fire protection system, and
 - upon loss of power to the hold-open device, the door becomes self-closing, and
 - release of one door in a stair enclosure results in closing of all doors in that stair

Note: A standard door closer with no hold-open mechanism is self-closing. A door with a closer and an electric or battery-operated hold-open mechanism actuated by the fire protection system is automatic-closing.