

Questions have been arising from the recent spread of COVID-19 on how to protect healthcare facilities from potential virus spread. A few questions have been about access-controlled egress doors.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal wants to remind everyone of the NFPA 101 Chapter 7 codes. Please see below for the requirement on access-controlled doors:

19.2.2.2.4 Doors within a required means of egress shall not be equipped with a latch or lock that requires the use of a tool or key from the egress side, unless otherwise permitted by one of the following:

- (1) Locks complying with 19.2.2.2.5 shall be permitted.
- (2) *Delayed-egress locks complying with 7.2.1.6.1 shall be permitted.
- (3) *Access-controlled egress doors complying with 7.2.1.6.2 shall be permitted.
- (4) Elevator lobby exit access door locking in accordance with 7.2.1.6.3 shall be permitted.
- (5) Approved existing door-locking installations shall be permitted.

7.2.1.6.2* Access-Controlled Egress Door Assemblies. Where permitted in Chapters 11 through 43, door assemblies in the means of egress shall be permitted to be equipped with electrical lock hardware that prevents egress, provided that all of the following criteria are met:

- (1) A sensor shall be provided on the egress side, arranged to unlock the door leaf in the direction of egress upon detection of an approaching occupant.
- (2) Door leaves shall automatically unlock in the direction of egress upon loss of power to the sensor or to the part of the access control system that locks the door leaves.
- (3) Door locks shall be arranged to unlock in the direction of egress from a manual release device complying with all of the following criteria:
 - (a) The manual release device shall be located on the egress side, 40 in. to 48 in. (1015 mm to 1220 mm) vertically above the floor, and within 60 in. (1525 mm) of the secured door openings.
 - (b) The manual release device shall be readily accessible and clearly identified by a sign that reads as follows:
PUSH TO EXIT.
 - (c) When operated, the manual release device shall result in direct interruption of power to the lock — independent of the locking system electronics—and the lock shall remain unlocked for not less than 30 seconds.
- (4) Activation of the building fire-protective signaling system, if provided, shall automatically unlock the door leaves in the direction of egress, and the door leaves shall remain unlocked until the fire-protective signaling system has been manually reset.
- (5) The activation of manual fire alarm boxes that activate the building fire-protective signaling system specified in 7.2.1.6.2(4) shall not be required to unlock the door leaves.
- (6) Activation of the building automatic sprinkler or fire detection

system, if provided, shall automatically unlock the door leaves in the direction of egress, and the door leaves shall remain unlocked until the fire-protective signaling system has been manually reset.

(7) The egress side of access-controlled egress doors, other than existing access-controlled egress doors, shall be provided with emergency lighting in accordance with Section 7.9.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to reach out on our code consultation form located on our website under the “forms” tab.

Thank you,

The Office of the State Fire Marshal