

NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Policy and Procedure Manual

FIRE PREVENTION
PLANS AND PERMITS

SECTION 340.16
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Special Egress Control Devices

PURPOSE: To provide information necessary to ensure that the design and installation of special egress control devices will comply with the applicable provisions of the 1998 California Building and Fire Codes.

POLICY: Special Egress Control Devices shall be inspected and installed in accordance with the appropriate CBC and CFC requirements. Said requirements shall be referenced when reviewing such systems.

PROCEDURE:

- I. **SCOPE:** The California Building and Fire Codes provide the Building Official and Fire Marshal with the authority to approve the installation of listed special egress control devices. The installation of these devices is restricted to the following occupancies, provided the building is protected **throughout by** an approved automatic fire sprinkler system and an approved smoke detection system is installed throughout all occupied areas, and mechanical/electrical spaces served by egress controlled exits. (Note: For Group I occupancies, this may be limited to all areas within a smoke compartment.)
 - A. B occupancies
 - B. F-1 occupancies
 - C. I-i and 1-2 occupancies
 - D. M occupancies
 - E. R-1 occupancies (congregate residences serving as group care facilities)
 - F. [R-2 occupancies](#) (residential care facilities housing clients with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia)
 - G. S occupancies

- II. **CODE COMPLIANCE:** Special egress control device installations shall conform to all of the following (1998 CBC Section 1004.5, 1998 CFC Section 1207.5):
 - A. The egress control device shall automatically deactivate upon activation of the sprinkler system or the detection system.

 - B. The egress control device shall automatically deactivate upon loss of electrical power to any one of the following:
 1. The egress control device
 2. The smoke detection system
 3. Failure of the exit illumination as required by CBC Section 1003.2.9.

 - C. The egress control device shall be capable of being deactivated by a signal from

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a switch located in an approved location within the building.

- D. The egress control device shall initiate an irreversible process that will deactivate the egress control device whenever a manual force of not more than 15 pounds (66.72N) is applied for two seconds to the panic bar or other door latching hardware. The egress-control device shall deactivate within an approved time period not to exceed a total of 15 seconds. The time delay established for each egress-control device shall NOT be field adjustable.
- E. The actuation of the panic bar or other door-latching hardware shall activate an audible signal at the door.
- F. The unlatching shall not require more than one operation.
- G. A sign shall be provided on the door located above and within 12 inches (305mm) of the panic bar or other door-latching hardware reading:

KEEP PUSHING,
THIS DOOR WILL OPEN IN 15 SECONDS.
ALARM WILL SOUND

- H. Sign letters shall be at least 1 inch (25mm) in height and shall have a stroke of not less than 1/8 inch (3.2mm).
 - I. Regardless of the means of deactivation, re-locking of the egress control device shall be by manual means only at the door.
 - J. Egress control devices installed on fire rated door assemblies shall be listed for such application.
- III. **ELEVATOR LOBBY EGRESS CONTROL.** The installation criteria described in this section are not contained within the California Fire or Building Codes. These requirements have been found by the North County Fire Protection District to provide an equivalent level of fire and life safety protection when evaluated against the provisions of the CBC and CFC. Elevator lobby egress control devices which are not of a time delay type shall comply with all of the following and shall be subject to the approval of both the Building Official and the Fire Marshal. The installation of such devices shall be limited to buildings classified as Group B occupancies that are protected **throughout by** an approved automatic fire sprinkler system and a smoke detection system throughout all occupied areas and electrical/ mechanical spaces for the story where special egress control devices are installed.

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- A. Elevator Lobby Doors — each elevator lobby door, or set of doors, shall be equipped with the following:
1. An approved door status indicator and switch
 2. A card key reader on the lobby side of the door(s)
- B. Elevator Lobby Door Lock Device: The door shall meet the following minimum requirements:
1. The lock device shall remain electrically activated twenty-four (24) hours a day.
 2. The lock device shall be designed to release under the following conditions:
 - a. Electrical power failure to the egress control lock device, exit illumination or smoke detection system
 - b. Activation of either the automatic fire sprinkler system or the smoke detection system
 - c. At any time from a listed control switch at the fire alarm panel
 - d. At any time from a Fire Authority permitted UL Central Station
 - e. At any time from a designated location on the floor, staffed during regular business hours.
 - f. Regardless of the means of deactivation, re-locking of the lock device shall be by manual means only at the door.
- C. Elevator Lobby Communication: Each elevator lobby equipped with an approved egress control lock device shall be provided with approved direct two-way communication capability between the elevator lobby and the U.L. listed central station (see item 2B above).
- IV. PLANS: Scaled plans for all proposed special egress control system installations shall be submitted for approval to the Building Department prior to submittal to the Fire Department. Plan approval is required prior to installation.

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- V. ACCEPTANCE AND ANNUAL CERTIFICATION: A copy of the fire alarm certification test and the annual tests conducted by a state licensed fire alarm system contractor shall be provided to the Fire Department upon request. Inspections of all new installations shall be witnessed by a Fire Inspector.