

REMOVE LOCKS AND LATCHES FROM DOORS WITH PANIC HARDWARE

CODE SECTIONS

2010 Yocha Dehe Fire Code

Section 1008.1.10 Panic and fire exit hardware. Doors serving a Group H occupancy and doors serving rooms or spaces with an occupant load of 50 or more in a Group A occupancy, assembly area not classified as an assembly occupancy, E, I-2 or I-2.1 occupancies shall not be provided with a latch or lock unless it is panic hardware or fire exit hardware. For Group L occupancies see Section CBC 443.6.3

EXCEPTION: A main exit of a Group A occupancy in compliance with Section 1008.1.9.3, Item 2 (see handout #7)

EXPLANATION

Panic hardware is defined as “A door latching assembly incorporating an unlatching device, the activating portion of which extends across at least one-half the width of the door leaf on which it is installed.” By simply pushing on this unlatching device, usually a bar, the door will easily and freely swing open. No other locks or latches such as additional deadbolts, surface bolts, or barrel bolts, may be attached to a door equipped with panic hardware.

The activating member shall be mounted at a height of not less than 30 inches nor more than 44 inches above the floor. The unlatching force shall not exceed 15 pound when applied in the direction of travel.

RATIONALE

Exit doors serving a large amount of people must be equipped with panic hardware as the only locking or securing device. Tragically, many people have lost their lives in fires when they could not escape a burning building because the door was locked and could not be opened by the occupants. Panic hardware is designed and installed to prevent this from occurring as the device allows the door to open when the activating device is pushed. By installing any additional locking or latching devices on your doors, the purpose of the panic hardware is defeated, which could trap people in your building in the event of a fire or other emergency.

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