

# Life Safety Code

December 2018

## PART 100 UPDATE FACT SHEET

### Security Door Locking

**The Office of the State Fire Marshal's (OSFM) new rules include a section that provides guidance on permitted security door locking.**

These new rules on security door locking were designed to help occupants prevent unwanted entry while maintaining the ability of occupants to evacuate and of first responders to reach occupants in an emergency.

OSFM door locking rules may apply to occupancies where the OSFM-adopted code applies. This does not include facilities controlled by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) which has separate rules for all public schools and public school district owned buildings.

#### **Door locking arrangements must meet the requirements as listed below:**

- The locking means must comply with the National Fire Protection Association's NFPA 101, Life Safety Code: 2015 Edition.
- Locking and unlocking means must be accomplished without opening the door to engage the lock.
- The locking and unlocking means is no more than four feet off the floor. This allows access to people of all ages, heights, and abilities.
- Unlocking of the door must be accomplished from the inside without the use of a key, tool, special device, knowledge, or passcode entry.
- If locking means are remotely engaged, such as by a computer in another location, unlocking of the door must be accomplished from the inside without the use of a key, tool, special device, knowledge, or passcode entry.
- The locking means must contain the ability to be unlocked from outside the room by designated staff and first responders.
- Utilization of any locking means cannot modify the door closer hardware, panic hardware, or the fire exit hardware.
- Any modifications made to a fire rated door cannot decrease the fire rating of the door. Any modifications to fire door assemblies must be in accordance with NFPA 80, Standard for Fire Doors and Other Opening Protectives: 2013 Edition.
- Occupancies opting to use these security door locking means as provided by rule must include use of these means in emergency planning and training. Staff must participate in drills using the locking and unlocking means.
- For new occupancies, unlocking and unlatching requires not more than one releasing operation.
- **For existing occupancies only**, the unlocking and unlatching may require up to but not more than two releasing operations. However, if doors are replaced, unlocking and unlatching of the new door must follow the new occupancy requirement of no more than one releasing operation.

