

Door Locking Devices - A call for Stakeholder Review

On March 2, 2015, the director of the Ohio Department of Commerce wrote a letter to the Ohio Board of Building Standards as a response to their ruling against the use of the Barracuda Intruder Defense System (door locking device). In his letter, Director Andre T. Porter calls for the initiation of a review process.

"I want the Board's examination to address the concern of school building emergencies that are created by fire or other disasters that require a fast and safe exit of the building as well as those emergencies that can be created by an intruder intent upon attacking the occupants of a building."

ALICE supports Director Porters efforts and his request for the following critical stakeholders to conduct a review including: the Board of Building Standards; the State Fire Marshal; the Dept of Public Safety and the Department of Education. He has also requested input from local fire officials, law enforcement; and school administrators. Anything that can be done to slow entry (restrict ingress) into a classroom will help provide the precious time needed for law enforcement to arrive. **A proper stakeholder review will balance this other with other life safety concerns.**

Egress vs. Ingress

Today's codes focus on emergencies that are created by fire or other disasters that require a fast and safe exit of buildings. This can be evidenced by more than 649 instances of the word "egress" in the international fire code. By contrast, there are only 3 instances of the word "ingress" used in the same code. Restricting the 'ingress' of a violent intruder into a classroom should always be a valid response options if you can not escape the danger.

Restricting Egress

National codes are anchored in terms of *allowing egress* from a room which is sensible for fire and other disasters that require fast exit. Unfortunately, a fast exit may not always be a safe response if a violent intruder is outside a classroom. In these instances, it's important to *restrict the ingress* of the violent intruder into that room. National codes do provide special provisions to *restrict egress* but such language is usually used in conjunction with lockups in schools, healthcare, assemblies, daycares and correctional facilities. Understanding these permitted *egress restrictions* may provide an existing reference point for stakeholders to define *restricted ingress*. Codes that discuss *egress restrictions* include:

- International Fire Code (2015 edition) section 1010.1.9.10.
- NFPA 101 (2012 edition), New Educational Occupancies, Sections 14.2.11.2 and 22.4.5.1.4 (1-5)

Today's Options for Restricting Ingress

Until code changes are contemplated, the best lockdown strategies includes protecting the occupants behind a code-compliant door lockset that is reinforced with a barricade (e.g., file cabinets, desk, chairs). Although these options can be used singularly, when combined these options will help provide the precious time needed for law enforcement to arrive.

<p>International Fire Code (2015 Edition)</p> <p>1010.1.9.10 Locking arrangements in correctional facilities. In occupancies in Groups A-2, A-3, A-4, B, E (Educational), F, I-2, I-3, M and S within correctional and detention facilities, doors in means of egress serving rooms or spaces occupied by persons whose movements are controlled for security reasons shall be permitted to be locked where equipped with egress control devices that shall unlock manually and by not less than one of the following means:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Activation of an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1. 2. Activation of an approved manual fire alarm box. 3. A signal from a constantly attended location. 	<p>NFPA 101 (2012 Edition) Chapter 14 - New Educational Occupancies</p> <p>14.2.11.2 Lockups. Lockups in educational occupancies shall comply with the requirements of 22.4.5.</p> <p>22.4.5.1.3 Lockups in occupancies, other than detention and correctional occupancies and health care occupancies, where the holding area has capacity for not more than 50 detainees, and where no individual is detained for 24 hours or more, shall comply with 22.4.5.1.4 or 22.4.5.1.5.</p> <p>22.4.5.1.4 The lockup shall be permitted to comply with the requirements for the predominant occupancy in which the lockup is placed, provided that all of the following criteria are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Doors and other physical restraints to free egress by detainees can be readily released by staff within 2 minutes of the onset of a fire or similar emergency. (2) Staff is in sufficient proximity to the lockup so as to be able to effect the 2-minute release required by 22.4.5.1.4(1) whenever detainees occupy the lockup. (3) Staff is authorized to effect the release required by 2.4.5.1.4(1). (4) Staff is trained and practiced in effecting the release required by 22.4.5.1.4(1). (5) Where the release required by 22.4.5.1.4(1) is effected by means of remote release, detainees are not to be restrained from evacuating without the assistance of others.
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Department of Commerce

John R. Kasich, Governor
Andre T. Porter, Director

March 2, 2015

Chairman Gerald Holland
Board of Building Standards
PO Box 4009
6606 Tussing Road
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

RE: Forum on Classroom Barriers

Dear Chairman Holland:

The Ohio Building Code exists and has evolved to protect public safety with a major emphasis of that code being to assure the safety of our children in school buildings. Yet, the threats to public safety are ever changing and so we must constantly examine and reexamine the code to assure that it responds to the threats that are known today. I am by this letter asking the Board of Building Standards to undertake such an examination of the code as it pertains to school buildings.

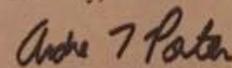
I want the Board's examination to address the concern of school building emergencies that are created by fire or other disasters that require a fast and safe exit of the building as well as those emergencies that can be created by an intruder intent upon attacking the occupants of a building.

The Board's examination must be thorough and broad in nature in order to better understand what change to the code, if any, may be needed to protect our children. I want the Board to gather information from the State Fire Marshal, the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Education. In addition, I ask the Board to hear from representatives of local fire officials, emergency medical professionals, law enforcement, and school administrators. Finally, I would like a portion of the Board's investigation to include public comment specifically as it relates to children's safety.

This process should begin at the earliest possible occasion. Upon your conclusion of this work, I would like the Board to report its findings to me. Should the Board's investigation suggest changes in the existing building or fire code, I would want those recommendations included in your report.

All agree that the safety of our children is of singular importance in our society. With this agreement as our starting point, I believe your examination can generate the policy priorities necessary to achieve the highest possible school safety.

Sincerely,


Andre T. Porter

cc: Larry Flowers, State Fire Marshal
Regina Hanshaw, Secretary Board of Building Standards

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