



Miami Beach Fire Department  
**FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION**  
**STANDARDS**



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TOPIC: **Locking Devices**

STANDARD NO: EXINSP-S10

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Revision 0

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This Fire Prevention Standard will clarify the code requirements for doors in the means of egress in existing mercantile, business, and assembly occupancies. The exceptions described below attempt to provide security protection and still comply with the Life Safety Code.

**(A)** All doors in the means of egress must have a knob, lever, or push bar to release a latch or lock in a single motion (No key, no tools, no special knowledge from the egress side).

**Mercantile:** NFPA 101, Section 37.2.2.2 and 7.2.1.5

Comply with (A):

Exception: Main entrance ONLY can have a key operated lock on the door (the reason for this is that the doors would be unlocked for business operation). The locking device is of the type that is readily distinguishable as locked. There shall be a readily visible, durable sign on the door that reads: THIS DOOR TO REMAIN UNLOCKED WHEN THE BUILDING IS OCCUPIED (1 inch lettering). The same logic applies for a thumb-turn deadbolt lock, but a sign is not required. When the establishment is closed for operation, any occupant (staff) inside must have a key immediately available.

All other exit doors must follow (A) requirements. In a Class C mercantile, if the owner has installed a thumb-turn deadbolt lock for added security, then it can remain if it complies with one of the options below:

- The handle releases the latch and deadbolt lock with one single motion (i.e., as in hotel rooms)
  - There is no other latch on the door (the door handles cannot have a latching mechanism).
- This hardware will only require one single motion to release the locks/latch since the door is just pushed open after unlocking the deadbolt.

Note: Panic hardware can be installed on any door instead of above hardware, if desired.

**Business:** NFPA 101, Section 39.2.2.2 and 7.2.1.5

Comply with (A):

Exception: Main entrance ONLY can have a key operated lock on the door (*the reason for this is that the doors would be unlocked for business operation*). The locking device is of the type that is readily distinguishable as locked. There shall be a readily visible, durable sign on the door that reads: THIS DOOR TO REMAIN UNLOCKED WHEN THE BUILDING IS OCCUPIED (1 inch lettering). The same logic applies for a thumb-turn deadbolt lock, but a sign is not required. When the establishment is closed for operation, any occupant (staff) inside must have a key immediately available.

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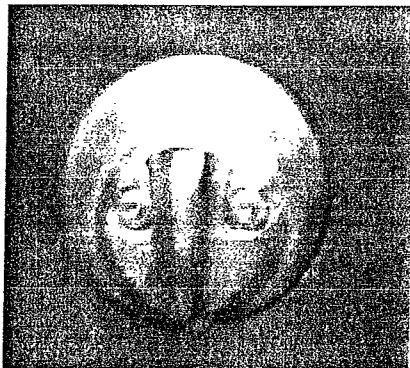
**Assembly:** NFPA 101, Section 13.2.2.2 and 7.2.1.5

Comply with (A):

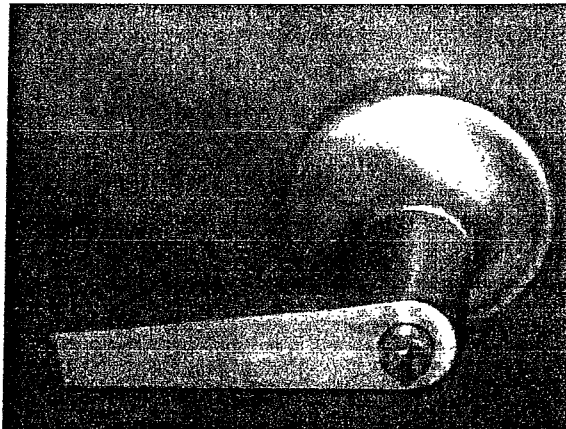
Exception: IF the Occupant load is 600 or less persons (300 for occupancies under Chapter 12), then the Main entrance (single door or single pair of doors) ONLY can have a key operated lock on the door (the reason for this is that the doors would be unlocked for business operation). The locking device is of the type that is readily distinguishable as locked. There shall be a readily visible, durable sign on the door that reads: THIS DOOR TO REMAIN UNLOCKED WHEN THE BUILDING IS OCCUPIED (1 inch lettering). When the establishment is closed for operation, any occupant (staff) inside must have a key immediately available.

IF the door above still has a latching mechanism, then it must have a panic hardware to release the latch.

All other doors must comply with (A). If the area has an occupant load of 100 or more, then any door in the means of egress must be equipped with panic hardware or fire exit hardware. No other locking/latching devices allowed.




Deadbolt with thumb-turn



Lever with thumb-turn

**NOTE: Any other locks/latching mechanism not described in this FPS must be removed.**

  
 Sonia Flores Machen, P.E.  
 Fire Marshal

3/14/2012  
 Date Issued