

Memo To: All Regional Offices of Education  
From: Health/Life Safety Committee  
Date: May, 1, 2017  
Subject: Door Locking Hardware

The issue of code-compliant locking of door within a school room (and this applies to all doors to rooms that are normally occupied, not just classrooms) is still an active conversation throughout public schools in Illinois. ISBE, Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), and IARSS are diligently working together to keep the state's Regional Offices of Education up to date on this security locking issue. Acts of violence in schools have caused questions as to code-compliant locking systems in schools. Unfortunately there is still pressure from non-school, non-fire service vendors that these security locking systems should be used in public schools. The majority of the security locking systems seen by ISBE, OSFM, and IARSS do not comply with the School Code. To make matters worse, schools are purchasing these systems without confirming first that they are allowed to be used.

School Codes/Building Codes require that:

1. Locks requiring special knowledge or tools to unlock are not permitted. This includes the use of keys, combinations, or any special device that has to be removed or activated to allow the door to be open.
2. Bolt locks of any kind are not permitted.
3. Unlatching of doors shall not require more than one motion. Hardware exists that permits two locking features, but one motion to unlock and unlatch that hardware. Think of door hardware on a hotel room. When a person closes the door after entering their guestroom the door automatically locks from the corridor side of the door. There usually exists an option lock a "thumb-turn" dead bolt located just above the door handle. In the morning when that person leaves he/she grabs the door handle turns and in one motion the "thumb-turn" dead bolt is released and the door latch is also released and the door is pulled open. With most of the devices that ISBE, OSFM, and IARSS are seeing it takes two motions: First motion being the removal of the special security locking device and second motion being the turning of the door handle or knob to unlatch and open the door.

"While these devices are perceived to provide additional security, they have the significant potential to facilitate unintended consequences when incidents of bullying, harassment, or physical violence take place. These devices prevent access by school staff and first responders and they delay egress in the case of emergencies such as a fire, which is statistically much more likely to happen. There are existing solutions that are code compliant and therefore allow first responders access to a classroom in case of an emergency. Classroom doors must be able to be

closed for safety and security, as well as opened when needed. Some of these devices will lock the intruder or more frequently a bully in the room with their victims.”<sup>1</sup>

Below are examples of security locking devices that ISBE, OSFM, and ROEs/ISCs have seen and are not compliance with the School Codes/building codes.



Prior to purchasing and installing security locking devices, **please** confirm with ROEs/ISCs or the OSFM (see contact information below) that the system complies with the School Code.

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<sup>1</sup> National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) Supports New Video Stressing Importance of Securing Classrooms without Compromising Life Safety—*School safety concerns have led to the installation of non-code compliant and possibly dangerous classroom door barricade devices.*  
<http://www.firemarshals.org/>

## **Contact Information for Security Locking Systems**

Local Regional Office of Education

[www.iarss.org/directory](http://www.iarss.org/directory)

**Cathy Stashak, Section Chief**

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Technical Services Division

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## What Code Applies to What School?

<b>2015 IBC.</b> For new construction contracted for design <b>on or after July 1, 2016</b>
<b>2009 IBC.</b> For new construction contracted for design <b>on or after January 1, 2010 but before July 1, 2016.</b>
<b>2006 IBC.</b> For construction contracted for design <b>on or after September 25, 2007 but before January 1, 2010.</b>
<b>2003 IBC.</b> For construction contracted for design <b>on or after October 3, 2005 but before September 25, 2007.</b>
<b>1996 BOCA.</b> For construction contracted for design <b>on or after July 6, 1998 but before October 3, 2005.</b>
<b>1993 BOCA.</b> For construction contracted for design <b>on or after March 24, 1995 and before July 6, 1998. The 1993 BOCA Fire Prevention Code and 1993 BOCA Property Maintenance Code applies to Part 175 and Part 185 schools.</b>
<b>Part 175.</b> For construction contracted for design <b>on or after July 1, 1965 but before March 24, 1995.</b>
<b>Part 185.</b> For construction contracted for design <b>before July 1, 1965.</b>

## Code Language Related to Security Locking Systems

Code and Section	Language	Comments
<b>BOCA National Fire Prevention Code 1993,</b> Section 608.1	<b>Openable:</b> All <i>means of egress</i> doors shall be readily openable from the side from which egress is to be made without a key, special knowledge or effort, except as provided in Section F-608.3	Nothing in Section 608.3 permits these Security Locking Systems.
<b>BOCA National Building Code 1993,</b> Section 1017.4.1 as referenced by BOCA Fire Prevention Code, Section F-608.4	<b>Locks and latches:</b> All <i>means of egress</i> doors shall be readily openable from the side from which egress is to be made without the use of a key or special knowledge.	Security Locking Systems require special knowledge on how to use and are not common hardware familiar to all occupants, including students who may not be able to reach, or have the strength to use.
<b>BOCA National Building</b>	<b>Flush and surface bolts:</b>	A.k.a. slide bolts on doors

<p><b>Code 1993</b>, Section 1017.4.1.1 as referenced by BOCA Fire Prevention Code, Section F-608.4</p>	<p>Manually operated edge or surface-mounted flush bolts and surface bolts are prohibited.</p>	
<p><b>BOCA National Fire Prevention Code 1996</b>, Section 608.1</p>	<p><b>Openable:</b> All <i>means of egress</i> doors shall be readily openable from the side from which egress is to be made without a key, special knowledge or effort, except as provided in Section F-608.3</p>	<p>Nothing in Section 608.3 permits these Security Locking Systems.</p>
<p><b>BOCA National Building Code 1996</b>, Section 1017.4.1 as referenced by BOCA Fire Prevention Code, Section F-608.4</p>	<p><b>Locks and latches:</b> All <i>means of egress</i> doors shall be readily openable from the side from which egress is to be made without the use of a key or special knowledge.</p>	<p>Security Locking Systems require special knowledge on how to use and are not common hardware familiar to all occupants, including students who may not be able to reach, or have the strength to use.</p>
<p><b>BOCA National Building Code 1996</b>, Section 1017.4.1.1 as referenced by BOCA Fire Prevention Code, Section F-608.4</p>	<p><b>Flush and surface bolts:</b> Manually operated edge or surface-mounted flush bolts and surface bolts are prohibited.</p>	<p>A.k.a. slide bolts on doors</p>
<p><b>International Fire Code 2003</b>, Section 1008.1.8.5</p>	<p><b>Unlatching:</b> The unlatching of any leaf shall not require more than one operation.</p>	<p>Most of the Security Locking Systems take two motions: First motion being the removal of the special security locking device and second motion being the turning of the door handle or knob to unlatch and open the door</p>
<p><b>International Fire Code 2003</b>, Section 1008.1.8</p>	<p><b>Door operations:</b> Except as specifically permitted by this section egress doors shall be readily openable from the egress side without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort</p>	<p>Security Locking Systems require special knowledge on how to use and are not common hardware familiar to all occupants, including students who may not be able to reach, or have the strength to use. There is no language in Section 1008.1.8 permitting these devices in schools.</p>

<p><b>International Fire Code 2003</b>, Section 1008.1.8.4</p>	<p><b>Bolt locks:</b> Manually operated flush bolts or surface bolts are not permitted.</p>	<p>A.k.a. slide bolts on doors</p>
<p><b>International Fire Code 2006</b>, Section 1008.1.8.5</p>	<p><b>Unlatching:</b> The unlatching of any door or leaf shall not require more than one operation.</p>	<p>Most of the Security Locking Systems take two motions: First motion being the removal of the special security locking device and second motion being the turning of the door handle or knob to unlatch and open the door</p>
<p><b>International Fire Code 2006</b>, Section 1008.1.8</p>	<p><b>Door operations:</b> Except as specifically permitted by this section egress doors shall be readily openable from the egress side without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort</p>	<p>Security Locking Systems require special knowledge on how to use and are not common hardware familiar to all occupants, including students who may not be able to reach, or have the strength to use. There is no language in Section 1008.1.8 permitting these devices in schools.</p>
<p><b>International Fire Code 2006</b>, Section 1008.1.8.4</p>	<p><b>Bolt locks:</b> Manually operated flush bolts or surface bolts are not permitted.</p>	<p>A.k.a. slide bolts on doors</p>
<p><b>International Fire Code 2009</b>, Section 1008.1.9.5</p>	<p><b>Unlatching:</b> The unlatching of any leaf shall not require more than one operation.</p>	<p>Most of the Security Locking Systems take two motions: First motion being the removal of the special security locking device and second motion being the turning of the door handle or knob to unlatch and open the door</p>

<p><b>International Fire Code 2009</b>, Section 1008.1.9</p>	<p><b>Door operations:</b> Except as specifically permitted by this section egress doors shall be readily openable from the egress side without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort</p>	<p>Security Locking Systems require special knowledge on how to use and are not common hardware familiar to all occupants, including students who may not be able to reach, or have the strength to use. There is no language in Section 1008.1.9 permitting these devices in schools.</p>
<p><b>International Fire Code 2009</b>, Section 1008.1.9.4</p>	<p><b>Bolt locks:</b> Manually operated flush bolts or surface bolts are not permitted.</p>	<p>A.k.a. slide bolts on doors</p>
<p><b>International Fire Code 2015</b>, Section 1010.1.9.5</p>	<p><b>Unlatching:</b> The unlatching of any leaf shall not require more than one operation.</p>	<p>Most of the Security Locking Systems take two motions: First motion being the removal of the special security locking device and second motion being the turning of the door handle or knob to unlatch and open the door</p>
<p><b>International Fire Code 2015</b>, Section 1010.1.9</p>	<p><b>Door operations:</b> Except as specifically permitted by this section egress doors shall be readily openable from the egress side without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort</p>	<p>Security Locking Systems require special knowledge on how to use and are not common hardware familiar to all occupants, including students who may not be able to reach, or have the strength to use. There is no language in Section 1010.1.9 permitting these devices in schools.</p>
<p><b>International Fire Code 2015</b>, Section 1010.1.9.4</p>	<p><b>Bolt locks:</b> Manually operated flush bolts or surface bolts are not permitted.</p>	<p>A.k.a. slide bolts on doors</p>