

**CHAPTER 10
MEANS OF EGRESS**

**SECTION 1003.3.1.3.4
IBC Interpretation No. 01-03
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1003.3.1.3.4 Access-controlled egress doors. The entrance doors in a means of egress in buildings with an occupancy in Group A, B, E, M, R-1 or R-2 and entrance doors to tenant spaces in occupancies in Groups A, B, E, M, R-1 and R-2 are permitted to be equipped with an approved entrance and egress access control system which shall be installed in accordance with all of the following criteria:

1. A sensor shall be provided on the egress side arranged to detect an occupant approaching the doors. The doors shall be arranged to unlock by a signal from or loss of power to the sensor.
2. Loss of power to that part of the access control system which locks the doors shall automatically unlock the doors.
3. The doors shall be arranged to unlock from a manual unlocking device located 40 inches (1016 mm) to 48 inches (1219 mm) vertically above the floor and within 5 feet (1524 mm) of the secured doors. Ready access shall be provided to the manual unlocking device and the device shall be clearly identified by a sign. When operated, the manual unlocking device shall result in direct interruption of power to the lock independent of the access control system electronics and the doors shall remain unlocked for a minimum of 30 seconds.
4. Activation of the building fire alarm system, if provided, shall automatically unlock the doors, and the doors shall remain unlocked until the fire alarm system has been reset.
5. Activation of the building automatic sprinkler or fire detection system, if provided, shall automatically unlock the doors. The doors shall remain unlocked until the fire alarm system has been reset.
6. Entrance doors in buildings with an occupancy in Group A, B, E or M shall not be secured from the egress side during periods that the building is open to the general public.

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Q: In Groups A, B, E and M occupancies, if Criteria 1 through 5 are met and the access- controlled egress doors unlock on the egress side prior to an occupant reaching the doors and no subsequent securing devices are installed, does the access-control system need to be disabled during the hours the building is open to the public?

A: No, the access-controlled system at egress doors is permitted to remain operational at all times; however, Item 6 specifically requires that during the hours the building is open to the general public, egress doors equipped with a controlled-access system shall not be secured from the egress side. It is permissible to lock occupants out of the building, but occupants may not be locked in the building. This restriction applies to Group A, B, E and M occupancies.

