

## CHAPTER 10 MEANS OF EGRESS

### SECTION [B] 1008.1.3.4 IBC Interpretation No. 14-04 2003 Edition Issued: 05-23-05 FI\_03\_55\_04

**[B] 1008.1.3.4 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 to 48 inches (1016 mm to 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 that reads "PUSH TO EXIT." 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.



**Q:** Are the requirements for access-controlled egress doors described in Section 1008.1.3.4 intended as an alternate method to panic hardware equipped with actuating switches?

**A:** No. The access-controlled egress requirements in Section 1008.1.3.4 are not permitted to serve as an alternative method for egress hardware required elsewhere in the code. The requirements in Section 1008.1.3.4 provide additional controls beyond the minimum requirements which may be added to control access through an entrance door that also serves as an egress or exit door. Where panic hardware is installed and secured during periods when the building is open to the public, the panic hardware itself and the electronic actuating switches within the panic hardware must be operational for egress as required in Items 1 through 6.

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