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2021 IBC and IFC Updates Affecting Doors, Door Hardware, and Door Operations

FOCUS:

Locking of Doors Permitted in Health Care Facilities

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The 2021 IBC and 2021 IFC, in Section 1010.2.4, permit locks and latches to prevent the operation of doors (i.e. opening for egress), and now permit the use of locks, including mechanical locks, on doors in some health care facilities where the clinical needs of the patients require containment or pose a security risk provided the clinical staff can unlock the door at all times and the staff have the keys or codes for the locks at all times.

Specifically, new Item 2 of 1010.2.4 states:

2. In Group I-1, Condition 2 and Group I-2 occupancies where the clinical needs of persons receiving care require containment or where persons receiving care pose a security threat, provided that all clinical staff can readily unlock doors at all times, and all such locks are keyed to keys carried by all clinical staff at all times or all clinical staff have the codes or other means necessary to operate the locks at all times.

Group I-1 occupancies include alcohol and drug centers, assisted living facilities, congregate care facilities, group homes, halfway houses, and residential board and care facilities, all intended for more than 16 persons. Condition 2 in Group I-1 is where any person(s) receiving care who require limited verbal or physical assistance while responding to an emergency situation, and to evacuate a building.



In health care facilities where the clinical needs of the patients require containment for their safety or security, the I-Codes allow doors to be locked in the direction of egress if certain criteria are met.

Group I-2 occupancies include hospitals, nursing homes, psychiatric hospitals, foster care facilities, and detoxification facilities.

For requirements that apply to electrified controlled egress locks in Group I-1 and I-2 health care facilities, refer to 2021 IBC Section 1010.2.14.

DISCLAIMER: BHMA provides this information as a service. Refer to the jurisdiction's building codes and the project requirements. If questions, consult the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).