

### FOCUS:

#### Clarifying One Releasing Motion for Doors in the Means of Egress

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**Previous editions of the IBC and IFC required not more than one releasing operation to unlatch a door for egress. The 2021 IBC and 2021 IFC were revised to require doors to be openable with not more than one releasing motion. Further, the 2021 IBC and IFC clarified the one releasing motion is required to be in a single linear direction (push or pull motion), or in a single rotational direction; and the single motion is to release all latching and all locking devices.**

Requiring doors in the means of egress to be openable with not more than one releasing **operation** compared to not more than one releasing **motion** . . . don't these two different words mean the same thing? The word "operation" in the context of the IBC and IFC could be interpreted, and was, to mean different things. For example, open heart surgery is commonly considered one operation, which consists of many, many motions.

To help with consistency in the interpretation, application, and enforcement of the 2021 IBC and IFC, Section 1010.2.1 was revised to require "the unlatching

of any door or leaf for egress shall require not more than one motion in a single linear or rotational direction to release all latching and all locking devices."

#### **There are a several important requirements packed into these few words:**

- unlatching of any door or leaf for egress requires not more than one motion
- that one motion is required be in a single linear or rotational direction
- that one motion is required to release all latching and all locking devices on the door.

The single linear motion can be a push – such as operating panic hardware – or a pull. Or the one motion could be in a single rotational direction such as turning a lever handle in one direction only.

These revisions to the 2021 IBC and IFC are consistent with the long-standing intent of the IBC and leave little room for interpretations inconsistent with this intent. And, these 2021 IBC and IFC requirements are consistent with ANSI / BHMA A156.41 Standard for Door Hardware Single Motion to Egress.



Rotating lever retracts latch and deadbolt.

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