

**NOTICE OF EXIT DOOR LOCK AND LATCH REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSEMBLY AREAS**

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on locks and latches for exit doors at assembly occupancies. California Fire Code (CFC) requirements are attached for reference.

*Panic and Fire Exit Hardware (CFC 1010.1.10)*

Exit doors serving Group A occupancies shall not be provided with a latch or lock other than panic hardware or fire exit hardware. EXCEPTION: The “main” exit door of a Group A occupancy is permitted to be locking in accordance with CFC 1010.1.9.3, Item 2, which is described in more detail below.

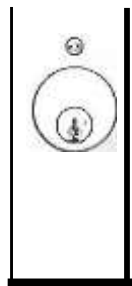
(NOTE: Secondary exit(s) door(s) are required to have panic hardware or fire exit hardware and without additional locks or latches.)

*Locks and Latches (CFC 1010.1.9.3)*

For “main” exit doors at Group A occupancies having an occupant load of 300 or less, locking devices are permitted, provided:

1. Locking device is “key-operated” (thumb latch is not permitted);
2. Locking is from the egress side;
3. Locking device is readily distinguishable as locked (see example below);
4. Sign posted on the egress side on or adjacent to the door that says “THIS DOOR TO REMAIN UNLOCKED WHEN THIS SPACE IS OCCUPIED.”

Examples:



## CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE REFERENCES

### 1010.1.10 – Panic and Fire Exit Hardware

Doors serving a Group H occupancy and doors serving rooms or spaces with an occupant load of 50 or more in a Group A occupancy, assembly area not classified as an assembly occupancy, E, I-2, or I-2.1 occupancies shall not be provided with a latch or lock other than panic hardware or fire exit hardware. For Group L occupancies, see Section 453.6.3 of the California Building Code.

Exception:

- A main exit of a Group A occupancy shall be permitted to be locking in accordance with Section 1010.1.9.3, Item 2.

### 1010.1.9.3 – Locks and Latches

Locks and latches shall be permitted to prevent operation of doors where any of the following exist:

1. Places of detention or restraint.
2. **In buildings in occupancy Group A having an occupant load of 300 or less, Groups B, F, M, and S, and in places of religious worship, the main door or doors are permitted to be equipped with key-operated locking devices from the egress side provided:**
  - 2.1. **The locking device is readily distinguishable as locked.**
  - 2.2. **A readily visible durable sign is posted on the egress side on or adjacent to the door stating: "THIS DOOR TO REMAIN UNLOCKED WHEN THIS SPACE IS OCCUPIED". The sign shall be in letters 1" (25mm) high on a contrasting background.**
  - 2.3. **The use of the key-operated locking device is revocable by the fire code official for due cause.**
3. Where egress doors are used in pairs, approved automatic flush bolts shall be permitted to be used, provided that the door leaf having the automatic flush bolts does not have a doorknob or surface-mounted hardware.

Attachment: California Fire Code Requirements