



Division of Early Care and Education
South Carolina Department of Social
Services

“Access-controlled egress doors”
For Educational Child Care Facilities
(Revised July 2026)

“Access-controlled egress doors”

Presentation is not designed to:

- cover all aspects of each code requirement.
- cover Child Care regulations.
- provide case by case interpretations

“Access-controlled egress doors”

- **Some facilities desire to control who may be able to enter the facility unaccompanied.**

➤ This presentation is intended to provide information to consider when choosing a system to control access to a facility.

1. Magnetic device installed per International Fire Code or Building Code.
2. Electric Strikes
3. Electric Latches
4. Release Devices
5. Keyless Entry Locks
6. Contact Information

Magnetic device installed per International Fire Code (IFC) or Building Code (IBC).

- IFC with SC Modifications 1010.1.9.8 allows Access controlled egress doors for Group E (Child Care) facilities.
- **There are seven requirements listed for use** (each covered in the following slides)
- Door hardware is to remain as required by International Codes.
 - ❖ listed latching hardware. Rated doors are required to maintain
 - ❖ **Panic hardware** or where required by **Fire Exit** hardware is to be maintain code.



Magnetic device installed per International Fire Code (IFC) or Building Code (IBC).

- ❖ Minimum Single Action, Direct Acting hardware is to be maintained when panic hardware is not required.
- ❖ Magnetic locks are capable of preventing the door required by the code from opening as from the egress side.
- ❖ The Magnetic locks **are not** allowed to interfere with egress in any way.

Magnetic device installed per International Fire Code (IFC) or Building Code (IBC).

- IFC with SC Modifications 1010.1.9.8
Access controlled egress doors. Group E
(Child Care) facilities.

- ❖ **Requirement 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.



Magnetic device installed per International Fire Code (IFC) or Building Code (IBC).

- IFC with SC modifications 1010.1.9.9
Access controlled egress doors. Group E (Child Care) facilities.
- ❖ **Requirement 2.** Loss of power to that part of the access control system which locks the doors shall automatically unlock the doors.

Requirement 3. Loss of power to the lock or locking system shall automatically unlock the electric locks.



Magnetic device installed per International Fire Code (IFC) or Building Code (IBC).

- **Requirement 4.** The doors shall be arranged to unlock from a manual unlocking device located 40 inches to 48 inches (1016mm 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.



Magnetic device installed per International Fire Code (IFC) or Building Code (IBC).

- **Requirement 5.** 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.

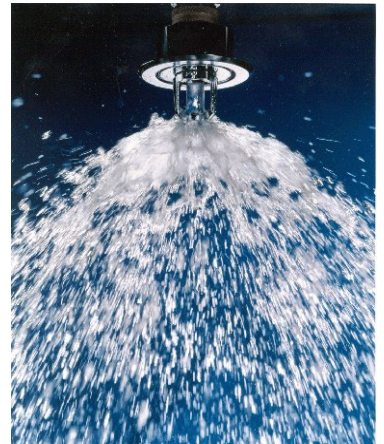
- ❖ **Please note!** The connection to the Fire Alarm is to be verified on the annual “Inspection and Testing Form” for the Fire Alarm System by a SC Licensed person.



Magnetic device installed per International Fire Code (IFC) or Building Code (IBC).

➤ **Requirement 6.** 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.

❖ **Please note!** The Sprinkler is typically connected to the building fire alarm. The connection is to be verified on the annual “Inspection and Testing Form” for the Fire Alarm System by a SC Licensed person.



Magnetic device installed per International Fire Code (IFC) or Building Code (IBC).

- **Requirement 7.** The door locking system units shall be listed in accordance with UL 294.

Magnetic device installed per International Fire Code (IFC) or Building Code (IBC).

- IFC with SC modifications
1010.1.9.8 Access controlled egress doors. Group E (Child Care) facilities.
- ❖ Magnetic locks are capable of preventing the door from opening as required by the code from the egress side.
- ❖ The Magnetic locks **are not** allowed to interfere with an egress door in any way during the hours that the facility is open.

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Electric Strikes used for access control of egress doors.

- **1031.2 Reliability.** Required exit accesses, exits or exit discharges shall be continuously maintained free from obstructions or impediments to full instant use in the case of fire or other emergency when the areas served by such exits are occupied. The security devices affecting means of egress shall be subject to approval of the fire code official.
- ❖ When properly installed, **Electric Strikes** may be used in child care for an egress door without interfering with egress capability in any way.



- ❖ It may be used with a variety of access control devices.

Electric Strikes used for access control of egress doors.

**Access control
device used to
enter facility.**



Electric Strikes used for access control of egress doors.

**Electric Strike activated
by the chosen type
control device.**

**There is no interference
with the egress latch.**



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Electric Latch used for access control of egress doors.

- **1031.2 Reliability.** Required exit accesses, exits or exit discharges shall be continuously maintained free from obstructions or impediments to full instant use in the case of fire or other emergency when the areas served by such exits are occupied. A security device affecting means of egress shall be subject to approval of the fire code official.
- ❖ When properly installed, **Electric Latches** may be used in child care for an egress door without interfering with egress capability in any way.



Electric Latch used for access control of egress doors.

- ❖ It may be used with a variety of access control devices.

- **IFC with SC modifications**
1010.1.10. Panic and fire exit hardware. Each door in a means of egress from a Group A or E occupancy having an occupant load of 50 or more and any Group H occupancy shall not be provided with a



Electric Latch used for access control of egress doors.

latch or lock unless it is panic hardware or fire exit hardware.

- ❖ Panic hardware must be used where required.
- ❖ **Fire exit hardware** (Listed Panic Hardware) is required for a fire rated door.
- **IFC with SC modifications**
1010.1.9.6 Unlatching. The unlatching of any door or leaf

Electric Latch used for access control of egress doors.

shall not require more than one
operation

- ❖ Single action direct acting hardware is required when panic hardware is not required.
- ❖ Please note that **listed hardware** is required for a **fire rated door**.



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Example of access control devices used to enter facility

**Remote Release and
Camera.**



Example of access control devices used to enter facility



Example of access control devices used to enter facility

Finger Print control
device



F707

Example of access control devices used to enter facility

**Combination and Proximity
control device**



Example of access control devices used to enter facility

Magnetic Card Access control device



Example of access control devices used to enter facility

Password Access control device



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Keyless Entry Locks

- **1031.2 Reliability.** Required exit accesses, exits or exit discharges shall be continuously maintained free from obstructions or impediments to full instant use in the case of fire or other emergency when the areas served by such exits are occupied. The security devices affecting means of egress shall be subject to approval of the fire code official.
- ❖ When properly installed, a keyless or other type access locks may be



used in child care for an egress door and will not interfere with egress capability in any way.

Keyless Entry Locks

- **1031.2 Reliability.** Required exit accesses, exits or exit discharges shall be continuously maintained free from obstructions or impediments to full instant use in the case of fire or other emergency when the areas served by such exits are occupied. The security devices affecting means of egress shall be subject to approval of the fire code official.
- ❖ **On the egress side**, a single action direct acting hardware, panic hardware, or fire exit hardware may be required.
- ❖ Remember, **listing must be maintained** for fire rated doors.

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SC DSS Child Care Licensing Contact Numbers

- Central Office 800-556-7445
803-898-9020
- Region I – Greenville 800-637-8550
864-250-5567
- Region II – Columbia 888-202-1469
803-898-9001
- Region III- Charleston 800-260-0211
843-953-9780

- Region IV – Florence 800-464-9138
843-661-6623

Child Care Fire Code Questions

- Contact SCDSS CCL Fire & Life Safety Office @ (803) 898-9020 or 800-556-7445
 - You may ask for a Fire & Life Safety Inspector for fire code questions.

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