



RB14-034

THUMB-TURN LATCHES IN EXIT DOORS

Reference: Sentence 3.4.6.16.1.(1), Div B, Appendix A, A-3.4.6.16.1.(1) and Sentence 9.9.6.7.(1)

Sentence 3.4.6.16.1.(1) " Except for devices on doors serving a contained use area or an impeded egress zone designed to be remotely released in conformance with Article 3.3.1.13., and except as permitted by Sentence (4) and Article 3.4.6.17., locking, latching and other fastening devices on a principal entrance door to a building as well as on every exit door shall permit the door to be readily opened from the inside with not more than one releasing operation and without requiring keys, special devices or specialized knowledge of the door opening mechanism. (See Appendix A.)"

Appendix A, A-3.4.6.16.1.(1) Fastening Device. Turnpieces of a type which must be rotated through an angle of more than 90° before releasing a locking bolt are not considered to be readily openable. The release of a locking bolt should allow the door to open without having to operate other devices on the door."

Sentence 9.9.6.7.(1)"Principal entrance doors, exit doors and doors to suites, including exterior doors of dwelling units, and other doors in an access to exit shall

- a) be openable from the inside or in traveling to an exit without requiring keys, special devices or specialized knowledge of the door-opening mechanism, or
- b) in the case of exit doors, be controlled by electromagnetic locking mechanisms in accordance with Sentence 3.4.6.16.(4)."

Question:

It has been queried if the above Code references permit the installation of thumb-turn locks in exit doors.

Commentary | Relevant Facts | Conclusion:

Simple, standard, thumb-turn type door latches are acceptable in exit doors not requiring emergency (panic) hardware provided the latch does not require the turnpiece to be rotated by an angle of more than 90°. Such turnpieces should be located between 900 and 1200 mm above floor level for easy access by persons in wheelchairs.

Chief Building Inspector

Regulation Bulletin General Policy Statement

Unless stated otherwise, the Code references in this Regulations Bulletin are to Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2014 (ABC 2014). Regulation Bulletins do not overrule the ABC 2014 nor constitute a relaxation of the Code. They serve to clarify the Code in areas where the latter is ambiguous or does not cover a specific topic. Regulation Bulletins are City of Calgary clarifications for staff use to enable consistency in the application of the Code. Regulation Bulletins should always be read in the context of the appropriate requirements of the Code.