



## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION STANDARD DETAILS & SPECIFICATIONS

**SUBJECT:** Access - Controlled Doors

**SPEC NO:** 11 - A  
**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 01/01/13  
**REVISED:**

### SCOPE

This Standard applies to buildings and tenant spaces with entrance doors that are electrically access-controlled.

### BACKGROUND

The California Building Code (CBC) contains specific regulations for Access-Controlled Egress Doors and Electromagnetically-Locked Egress Doors. These types of Access-Control systems are allowed for the occupancy group specified in the CBC provided that panic hardware is not otherwise required on the egress doors.

For clarification purposes for this Standard, Access-Controlled Egress Doors, Electromagnetically-Locked Egress Doors and an entrance-only access control system are defined as follows:

- Access-controlled Egress Doors are doors where egress is controlled by a system that requires a card-key, code or actuation of a motion sensor or other device to allow doors to be opened (typically by cutting off power to a magnet attached to the door) for egress purposes.
- Electromagnetically Locked Egress Doors are doors where egress through the door is controlled by a system that requires a card key, code or sensor to electrically unlock the door hardware itself for egress purposes. No special knowledge or effort is required to operate the door unlocking hardware with such systems.
- Entrance-only access-control system is a system where the door(s) are not required to be electrically unlocked from the egress side in order to exit and normal mechanical operation of the door hardware allows egress through the door(s). These types of systems typically use an electric strike to control access from the exterior into the building or area.

### REQUIREMENTS

Building or tenant spaces having Access-controlled Egress Doors, Electromagnetically-Locked Egress Doors or an entrance-only access-control system shall also be equipped with provisions for unlocking doors for Fire Department access under emergency conditions as required by this Standard (see additional requirements in the CBC for unlocking interior stairway doors).

A key operated switch shall be provided adjacent to the main building entrance or tenant space entrance (or other location approved by the Fire Inspector) for Fire Department use. Operation of the switch shall unlock or release all access-controlled doors within the building or tenant space. **Note that when required fire-rated doors are unlocked they shall always remain latched.**

All doors shall remain unlocked until the system is manually reset. The switch shall be keyed to the Fire Department's Knox Key System. In lieu of the Knox key switch, a Fire Department approved key lock box containing keys to the access control system may be installed immediately adjacent to a system-deactivating switch.

**Exception:**

When approved by the Chief, a key switch is not required when only the exterior building or tenant space main entrance doors are electrically access-controlled and an approved key lock box is provided. The number and location of the key lock boxes shall be as approved by the Fire Inspector. The key lock boxes shall contain master keys that will unlock all doors associated with the building or tenant space. Note that card-keys are not acceptable for this purpose. Unlocking doors via a master key will cause the door(s) to remain unlocked until manually re-locked.