

Delayed Egress Locking Systems on Classroom Doors

When the need exists to prevent students from leaving classrooms without supervision, the South Carolina Fire Code permits a **Delayed Egress Locking System** on Classroom Doors. Approval to use a Delayed Egress Locking System should come from the local Fire Code Official. If a local Fire Code Official is not available, school districts may reach out to the Office of State Fire Marshal for assistance by emailing Assistant State Fire Marshal Nathan Ellis (nathan.ellis@llr.sc.gov).

Code compliant Delayed Egress will comply with the following requirements of the **2021 South Carolina Fire Code**.

1010.2.13 Delayed egress. Delayed egress locking systems shall be permitted to be installed on doors serving the following occupancies in buildings that are equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or an approved automatic smoke or heat detection system installed in accordance with Section 907.

[...].

2. Group E classrooms with an *occupant load* of less than 50.

[...]

1010.2.13.1 Delayed egress locking system. The delayed egress locking system shall be installed and operated in accordance with all of the following:

1. The delay electronics of the delayed egress locking system shall deactivate upon actuation of the automatic sprinkler system or automatic fire detection system, allowing immediate free egress.
2. The delay electronics of the delayed egress locking system shall deactivate upon loss of power controlling the lock or lock mechanism, allowing immediate free egress.



Example above shared from:
<https://www.dynalock.com/surface-mount-inswing-double-1500-holding-force-delayed-egress-maglock-detail.html>



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3. The delayed egress locking system shall have the capability of being deactivated at the fire command center and other approved locations.
4. An attempt to egress shall initiate an irreversible process that shall allow such egress in not more than 15 seconds when a physical effort to exit is applied to the egress side door hardware for not more than 3 seconds. Initiation of the irreversible process shall activate an audible signal in the vicinity of the door. Once the delay electronics have been deactivated, rearming the delay electronics shall be by manual means only.
Exception: Where approved, a delay of not more than 30 seconds is permitted on a delayed egress door.
5. The egress path from any point shall not pass through more than one delayed egress locking system.
6. A sign shall be provided on the door and shall be located above and within 12 inches (305 mm) of the door exit hardware:
 - 6.1. For doors that swing in the direction of egress, the sign shall read, "PUSH UNTIL ALARM SOUNDS. DOOR CAN BE OPENED IN 15 [30] SECONDS."
 - 6.2. For doors that swing in the opposite direction of egress, the sign shall read, "PULL UNTIL ALARM SOUNDS. DOOR CAN BE OPENED IN 15 [30] SECONDS."
 - 6.3. The sign shall comply with the visual character requirements in ICC A117.1.
7. Emergency lighting shall be provided on the egress side of the door.
8. The delayed egress locking system units shall be listed in accordance with UL 294.

Please Note:

- Delayed Egress Locking Systems are only permitted on Classroom Doors.
- Delayed Egress Locking Systems require an automatic fire detection system or automatic fire sprinkler system throughout the building. Many schools do not have either. If you are not sure if your building qualifies for a Delayed Egress Locking System, please contact your local Fire Code Official or the State Fire Marshal's Office (nathan.ellis@llr.sc.gov) for consideration of alternative methods of compliance.



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