



**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**State Fire Marshal Division**  
  
**STATEMENT OF POLICY**

Policy #: INS ED – 05 (2007)	Subject of Policy: Use of Magnetic Locks in Schools		
Reviewed and Approved By: Jerry Rosendahl	Title: State Fire Marshal	Date: July 10, 2007	

**APPLIES TO:**

State Fire Marshal Inspection Personnel

**PURPOSE:**

To provide guidance on egress requirements and the use of magnetic locks in existing schools.

**POLICY:**

**Magnetic Locks in Existing Schools**

Magnetic locks that were installed in existing school buildings before March 31, 2003 shall be permitted on exit doors when the educational occupancy meets the following requirements and they are maintained in operative condition at all times:

- (a) **Fire alarm and detection system.** The building must be equipped throughout with an approved supervised automatic fire alarm and smoke detection system. If the building is equipped with automatic sprinkler protection, it must be interconnected to the fire alarm system.
- (b) **Location of manual pull stations.** Manual fire alarm pull stations must be located within five feet of the affected door(s).
- (c) **Emergency lighting.** Emergency lighting must be installed throughout the exit system.
- (d) **Deactivation.** The egress control devices shall immediately deactivate under the following conditions:
  - a. Activation of any automatic detection device;
  - b. Activation of the automatic sprinkler system;
  - c. Loss of electrical power to the device or the fire alarm system;
  - d. Activation of the fire alarm trouble signal; or,
  - e. Activation of a switch from a location which is constantly attended during normal school hours (such as the office).
- (e) **Release time.** The egress control devices must release within 30 seconds upon activation of a manual fire alarm pull station.
- (f) **Signs.** Signs must be permanently placed on the affected door(s) stating: **THIS DOOR WILL UNLOCK UNDER EMERGENCY FIRE CONDITIONS.** The sign letters must be at least one inch in height and must have a stroke of not less than one-eighth inch.

- (g) **Testing of egress control devices.** Egress control devices shall be tested at least monthly to ensure that they will release under the conditions as set forth above.
- (h) **Fire alarm system.** The fire alarm system controlling the affected device(s) shall be tested at least once every six months.
- (i) **Maximum number of control devices.** The total number of special egress control devices in any one egress path must be such that the aggregate time delay of all units does not exceed 30 seconds.

### **New Installations of Magnetic Locks**

Any new magnetic locking device installations within new or existing school buildings must comply with the current requirements of the Minnesota State Fire Code. For more information regarding new installations, please contact the SFMD School Inspector assigned to your area, or contact us via email at [firecode@state.mn.us](mailto:firecode@state.mn.us).