



BULLETIN RB06-054

(Updated 2015 Dec 18)

THUMB-TURN LATCHES IN EXIT DOORS

Reference: Sentence 3.4.6.15.1.(1), Div B, Appendix A, A-3.4.6.15.1.(1) and Sentence 9.9.6.7.(1)

Sentence 3.4.6.15.1.(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 3.4.6.16.**, locking, latching and other fastening devices on a principal entrance door or 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-3.4.6.15.1.(1)” Fastening Device. Turnpieces of a type which must be rotated through an angle of more than 900 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 3.4.6.15.(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 900. Such turnpieces should be located between 900 and 1200 mm above floor level for easy access by persons in wheelchairs.

Chief Building Inspector

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