

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FIRE CODE ENFORCEMENT**

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY 05-04

CODE REFERENCE:

NFPA 101 (2003) section 7.2.1.6.2 Access-Controlled Egress Doors

BACKGROUND:

The code does not specify egress situations such as air-locks, clean-rooms or similar areas. Air locks allow only one door in a series to be opened and any time. Sequencing requires the door to be closed prior to opening another door within the air-lock.

A sensor as required in 7.2.1.6.2(1) (a) defeats the purpose of the air lock.

Panic hardware as required in 7.2.1.6.2(1) (b) will not be functional since one door swings against the means of egress.

POLICY:

This policy applies to magnetic door locks that remain unlocked until a door within the airlock is opened.

NFPA 101, section 7.2.1.6.2 items (1) (a) and (b) will not apply to air-locks (or similar) provided section 7.2.1.6.2 items (2) thru (7) are in compliance as intended, plus the five additional items below:

1. Mount a durable sign at each "Push to Exit" switch that will read as follows:
 "Emergency Door Release Push To Exit" on contrasting background
 in 1 inch letters (white letters on a red background).
2. These areas are not open for public access without an employee escort.
- 3 The sequence of operations is described as follows:
 - a. The magnetic locked doors restrict passage into or out of the airlocks and clean room areas.
 - b The magnetic locked doors will permit only one of the two doors to lock until the other has closed.
 - c. Employees are to be instructed on the operation of **"Emergency Door Release Push to Exit"** features.
 - d. Push to Exit switches are installed on the egress side of all magnetic controlled doors for egress.
4. Building must protected by an automatic sprinkler system.
5. A letter of understanding from the Owner/ Occupant of agreement to these conditions will be placed on file with the Fire Marshal. Areas affected will be listed by floor and room number or description. Changes in these conditions shall be subject to review and approval by the office of the Fire Marshal.

The office of the Fire Marshal shall inspect the final installation and test for proper operation upon completion of work including the conditions listed above.

JUSTIFICATION:

Create a policy that is consistent throughout the county.

The intent is to provide maintenance of environmental controls for specialty business practice while maintaining a quick and safe means of egress for the occupants.

PREPARED BY: D. Deckert, P.E.

DATE 9/2/05

FIRE MARSHAL Michael Jones