
ASCP

RISK ALERT!

Date: *June 22, 2011*

Attention: *ASCP Members*

Subject: *Classroom Door Locking Mechanisms*

Following the 1999 Columbine High School and the 2007 Virginia Tech University shootings, safety and security experts focused their attention on preventing similar type events from occurring in the future. Findings indicated that lockdowns, wherein students/staff are contained in locked rooms until a threat is controlled, is an effective tool in minimizing this type of occurrence on school campuses. However, many campuses lack classroom doors with interior locking mechanisms. In February of 2009, Assembly Member Mendoza brought forth Assembly Bill 211, which added Education Code Section 17075.50 requiring all new construction submitted to the Division of State Architect (DSA) to include “*locks that allow doors to classrooms and any room with an occupancy of five or more persons to be locked from the inside.*”

The requirements under Education Code Section 17075.50 become effective on July 1, 2011 and require all *new construction* projects submitted to DSA to comply with this Section of the code. AB 211 was originally introduced to require these lock types on modernization projects, but was amended in April of 2009 striking the requirement for modernization projects. Section 17075.50 *does not* affect alteration, modernization or reconstruction projects.

Interior door locking mechanisms raise concerns over fire and life safety codes where door locks may prevent the safe egress from a classroom or other room. While doors in new construction projects must lock from the inside, they must still comply with Title 24 (California Building Code) for Egress Door Hardware – being “*readily openable from the egress side without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort.*”

Doors that remain locked from the outside at all times and restroom doors are exempt from Section 17075.50 as are doors to classrooms and any other room where the occupancy is 4 persons or less. Rooms with an occupancy of 5 or more shall comply with this new section of Education Code.

Members should review Education Code Section 17075.50 with their Facilities staff; Maintenance & Operations staff; Architects; Construction Managers; and other safety, security, risk management and emergency operations staff to ensure that all new construction projects are in compliance with these regulations.

ASCP Staff is available to assist in answering concerns as they may arise.

Related Risk Alerts

[2007 Building Code](#)