

Egress Door Locking and Control Requirements

6th September 2026,

1. Introduction

Doors in a means of egress may normally be secured against unauthorised ingress, provided that the door remains readily openable from the egress side without a key, tool, special knowledge or special effort and, subject to stated exceptions, all locking and latching devices are released by one obvious operation. A lock that delays or prevents egress is permitted only where a specific code provision authorises the arrangement and every condition of that provision is satisfied.

2. Doors locking summary

Door / arrangement	Status	Simple description	SBC 201 clause
Standard egress door	YES	Egress must remain readily openable.	1010.2
Card-reader on ingress side	YES	Permitted where the egress-side hardware provides free and immediate egress.	1010.2 commentary
Main entrance key locking	LIMITED	Only where a specific exception in the locks and latches provisions applies and all stated safeguards are met.	1010.2.4
Exit stair door	LIMITED	Normally openable from both sides; listed exceptions permit locking from the stair side or opposite the egress side.	1010.2.7
Classroom / intruder lock	YES	Permitted in Group E, Group B educational and Group I-4 where all four conditions are satisfied.	1010.2.8
Panic / fire exit hardware door	YES	Required applications must use compliant panic or fire exit hardware; other locks must not defeat release.	1010.2.9
Door hardware release electric lock	YES	Door hardware directly interrupts lock power; immediate unlock; loss of power unlocks; UL 294 listing.	1010.2.11
Sensor release electric lock	YES	Approach sensor, independent manual unlocking device, power-loss release and all listed conditions.	1010.2.12
Delayed egress lock	LIMITED	Only in permitted occupancies and only when every delayed-egress condition is satisfied.	1010.2.13
Controlled egress healthcare lock	LIMITED	Only for qualifying healthcare conditions and with every required safeguard.	1010.2.14
Detention / restraint lock	LIMITED	Only for places of detention or restraint under the stated controls and exceptions.	1010.2.15
Security grille at main exit	LIMITED	Permitted in Groups B, F, M and S under the occupancy and open-position conditions.	1010.3.4
Key, card or pass code required to exit	NO	Not permitted in egress doors unless a specific SBC 201 locking arrangement expressly authorises it.	1010.2

One-Page Decision Flowchart

