

BULLETIN: IMPACT OF AB 211 - CONCERNING DOOR HARDWARE

Purpose: To notify design professionals about provisions of Assembly Bill 211 (2009-2010 Regular Session, Chapter 430), which became effective on July 1, 2011.

Background: The bill states:

"The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

- a. "Violent incidents on school campuses are increasing at an alarming rate. Lockdowns are an effective tool that can be used on school campuses to facilitate the safety of pupils and staff during violent incidents.
- b. "The locks in most school classrooms, offices, and other rooms where pupils and staff gather can be locked only from the outside, and the safety of school staff and pupils could be placed in jeopardy if school staff is required to go out into a hallway or exterior of the building to lock doors during a violent incident.
- c. "Locking mechanisms that lock a door from the inside, commonly referred to as classroom security locks, have been developed to quickly lock doors to classrooms, offices and other rooms from the inside."

Title 24, Part 2, Section 1008.1.9 requires egress door hardware to have quick unlock capability for egress, but does not require the capability to lock the door from inside. AB 211 adds this requirement.

1. The Law added Education Code (EC) Section 17075.50, which states:

- (a) On and after July 1, 2011, all new construction projects submitted to the Division of the State Architect pursuant to this chapter shall include locks that allow doors to classrooms and any room with an occupancy of five or more persons to be locked from the inside.
- (b) The locks shall conform to the specifications and requirements set forth in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations.
- (c) Doors that are locked from the outside at all times and pupil restrooms are exempt from the requirements of this section.

2. Applicability to School Projects Under Division of the State Architect (DSA) Jurisdiction:

All new construction projects submitted, pursuant to the Leroy F. Green School Facilities Act of 1998, to DSA for review on or after July 1, 2011 must be designed in compliance with new provisions of EC Section 17075.50.

The law applies to Kindergarten-12th grade construction projects that are receiving state funding. DSA determines that the law is applicable if item #16 on the form DSA-1, Application for Approval of Plans and Specifications, is checked "YES".

"16. Will project be submitted to the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) for funding under the School Facility Program? YES NO"

2.1 State funded projects are required to include the AB 211 compliant locking mechanisms in any of the following:

- New buildings sited on new or existing campuses.
- Any individual rooms within the new building (including Lease-Leaseback projects) with 5 or more occupants, and building entrances.

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For example, in large projects, in addition to the building entrances, there may be 20 rooms or more that each have 5 or more occupants. These would need this locking hardware.

Exception per EC 17075.50(c): Doors that are locked from the outside at all times and pupil restrooms are exempt from the requirements.

Examples of rooms that may be exempted, besides restrooms, are: storage rooms or storage buildings, electrical rooms, **janitor's closets**, boiler rooms, freezer boxes or cooler boxes, elevator equipment rooms, etc.

- Regardless of occupancy classification group. Includes new administration buildings, press boxes, etc. with state funding and 5 or more occupants.
- New portable buildings sited on new or existing campuses.

2.2 State funded projects **are not required** to include the AB 211 compliant locking mechanisms in any of the following:

- Modernizations of existing buildings, or to additions to existing buildings.
- Fire **reconstruction**, when using the original plans, per Tile 24, Part 1 (California Administrative Code), Section 4-314.
- Existing portable buildings that are moved from one location on a campus to another location on the same campus.
- Existing portable buildings that are moved from one campus to another.

Note: In all cases, accessibility requirements in the 2010 California Building Code (CBC), Section 1133B.2.5.2 would apply.

3. Summary: These new provisions of the Education Code require that doors shall be capable of locking from the inside of the room, when there are 5 or more occupants, so staff members or students do not have to expose themselves on the outside of the room or building to a hostile intruder during a **"lock-down"**.

The requirements for doors that are locked from the outside at all times, and pupil restrooms are not changed by AB 211.

4. No Change in Egress Door Hardware Requirements: The hardware on an egress door from any Kindergarten through 12th grade public school room that is normally occupied shall meet all of the provisions of Title 24, Part 2, Chapter 10, Section 1008.1.9, i.e. **"...readily openable from the egress side without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort."** AB 211 only adds the lock ability requirement, where appropriate.

5. DSA plan review comments will address non-compliance.

6. DSA Contact: For questions not answered by this Bulletin, please contact your [DSA Regional Office](#).