



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

To: Local Fire Marshals

Date: September 20, 2018

From: Office of State Fire Marshal

With the start of the new school year and a recent news story regarding security devices for school classroom doors. I thought it was a good time to send out a reminder from the Office of State Fire Marshal regarding these devices.

Many of these security devices are in conflict with the requirements of the Connecticut Fire Safety Code. The devices require at least two (2) operations to open the egress door where only one (1) motion is permitted by Part III section 1008.1.9.5 and Part IV section 7.2.1.5.10.2. They also require special knowledge or effort to operate, which again is not permitted by Part III section 1008.1.9 and Part IV section 7.2.1.5.3. Some of the devices do not meet hardware height requirements by Part III section 1008.1.9.2 and Part IV section 7.2.1.5.10.1.

There are also ADA requirement concerns regarding tight grasping, tight pinching, or twisting of the wrist to operate.

The school safety infrastructure council report states that locks are to comply with Building and Fire Codes. The final report of the Sandy Hook Advisory Committee recommends that classroom doors shall be easy to lock and allow for quick release in the event of an emergency. Classroom doors with interior locks shall have the capability of being unlocked/released from the interior with one (1) motion, and that locking systems must comply with Life Safety and the State of Connecticut Building and Fire Codes to allow for emergency evacuation.

Based on these concerns, use of this type of security device is in direct conflict with the Connecticut Fire Safety Code. The Office of State Fire Marshal has not approved any of these devices for use in Connecticut.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William Abbott".

William Abbott
State Fire Marshal