The 2006 edition of the National Fire Protection Association NFPA 101 Life Safety Code is the reference. Information about this subject can be found in Chapter 7 under Special Locking Arrangements.

This type of opening requires some means of access control, such as a card reader, from the exterior side of the opening while allowing free egress from the inside when the building is occupied.

What makes this type of opening different from a typical egress door is that generally there is no door-mounted latching lock device that manually activates release of the lock and allows egress. This type of opening requires a sensor to release the lock device, with an additional back up manual lock release and a fail safe-feature to unlock the door in case of a loss of electrical power.

It is not to be confused with delayed-egress doors. Delayed-egress function releases the door by manual activation at the door and delays, but still accomplishes egress. Access-Controlled Egress doors are a different type of special locking arrangement in which the primary means of releasing the lock is not manual but requires a sensor on the egress side that unlocks the door hardware.

For example, if a door has a magnetic lock and a latching lock device with an integral switch (request to exit) that signals release of the magnetic lock upon activation, it is not considered an access-control egress lock opening. In this case egress is accomplished by manual means at the door. If the same opening had a magnetic lock and a latching lock device without an integral request to exit signal, the magnetic lock would not release upon activation of the latching device and the opening would then be considered an access-control egress opening and would require a sensor for release of the magnetic lock as well as a manual back up release switch.

A commonly used application is on aluminum and glass doors with a reader on the exterior, and magnetic locks, a motion detector and manual push button on the interior egress side, meeting all of the additional requirements as well.

Unlike delayed egress openings, access—controlled egress doors can be used anywhere along a path of egress and there can be multiple openings of this type anywhere in the egress path of travel. This possible providing there are no specific occupancy requirements restricting their locations.

Use of Access-Controlled Egress doors is subject to occupancy chapter permission.

**7.2.1.6.2 Addresses Access-Controlled Egress Doors.** “Where permitted in Chapters 11–42, doors in the means of egress shall be permitted to be equipped with an approved entrance and egress access control system, providing that all the following criteria are met:

1. A sensor shall be provided on the egress side, arranged to detect an occupant approaching the doors that are arranged to unlock in the direction of egress upon detection of an approaching occupant or loss of power to the sensor.
2. Loss of power to the part of the access control system that locks the doors shall automatically unlock the doors in the direction of egress.
3. The doors shall be arranged to unlock in the direction of egress from a manual release device located 40 in. to 48 in. vertically above the floor and within 60 in. of the secured doors.
4. The manual release device specified in 7.2.1.6.2 (3) shall be readily accessible and clearly identified by a sign that reads as follows: PUSH TO EXIT.
5. When operated, the manual release device shall result in direct interruption of power to the lock, independent of the access control system electronics and the doors shall remain unlocked for not less than 30 seconds.
6. Activation of the building fire-protective signaling system, if provided, shall automatically unlock the doors in the direction of egress, and the doors shall remain unlocked until the fire-protective signaling system has been manually reset.
7. The activation of manual fire alarm boxes that activate the building fire protective signaling system specified in 7.2.1.6.2 (6) shall not be required to unlock the doors.
8. Activation of the building automatic sprinkler or fire detection system, if provided, shall automatically unlock the doors in the direction of egress, and the doors shall remain unlocked until the fire-protective signaling system is manually reset.”

**To acquire CEP points, answer the following questions:**

1. Information about access-controlled egress locks is found in what section title of Chapter 7?
   
   ______________________________________________  .

2. The normal primary means of releasing a lock on an access-controlled egress door during the egress process is accomplished by what means?

   _______________________________________________

3. What is the vertical mounting height range in inches of the manual release device?

   _______________________________________________

4. The manual release device must be located within what distance in inches from the secured doors?

   _______________________________________________

5. What is the minimum time an access-control egress door must remain unlocked upon activation of the manual release device?

   _______________________________________________

**Note criteria number 7.** By not requiring unlocking of the doors if the fire alarm is manually activated, it prevents someone intent on breaching the security system from accomplishing their purpose.

You must consult the specific occupancy chapters relevant to your project and your local codes for additional requirements as they may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

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You will earn 3 CEP points by reading the article and answering the problems. Upon completion, copy or detach this page, fill in the form below, and submit your answers by mailing or faxing the page to DHI.

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**Answers**

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1. Information about delayed-egress locks is found in what section title of Chapter 7?
   Special Locking Arrangements.

2. The normal primary means of releasing a lock on an access-controlled egress door during the egress process is accomplished by what means?
   A sensor.

3. What is the vertical mounting height range in inches of the manual release device?
   40 to 48 inches.

4. The manual release device must be located within what distance in inches from the secured doors?
   60 inches.

5. What is the minimum time an access-control egress door must remain unlocked upon activation of the manual release device?
   30 seconds.