



**ANCHORAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION
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Policy #08-004 THUMB-TURN LOCKS AND SECONDARY DOORS

References: 2006 IFC 1008.1.8.3, IBC 1008.1.8.3,

Door Operations. 2006 IFC 1008.1.8: "...Egress doors shall be readily openable from the egress side (inside) without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort."

It is the policy of the Anchorage Fire Department, that unless specifically prohibited in the building and fire code, thumb-turn devices shall be allowed on the front main entrance doors under the following conditions: they are readily identifiable as an exit device, can be operated with a single motion and do not require special knowledge or effort to operate. Thumb-turn locks with a turn greater than 1/2 turn or 180 degrees are prohibited. Thumb-turns and key locking hardware are prohibited where panic hardware is required (e.g. assembly occupancies).

Facilities with only one exit shall have that exit unlocked from the inside at all times the facility is occupied. Further, Section 1008.1.8.1 states that door handles, pulls, latches, locks and other operating devices on doors that are required to be accessible by chapter 11 of the currently adopted IBC shall not require tight grasping, tight pinching, or twisting of the wrist to operate.

In certain occupancy groups, the code allows a double key, or thumb turn lock on the main exit with proper signage (2006 IFC 1008.1.8.3). However, secondary exits that are either required, or marked as exits, or visible as exits must have panic hardware installed, or another type of single-action hardware on them. Those types of hardware include a double-mortise, single action deadbolt mechanism; a single action knob with no ability to lock the door for egress from inside, and a panic hardware bar (crash-bar). Others that meet the requirements of section 1008.1.8.5 are also acceptable.

Other doors that are not required exits may be signed "Not an Emergency Exit" and may incorporate any hardware type.