



Informal Interpretation Report Number 6559



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Section 423.7.5

Question:

Is it the intent of Florida Building Code - Building Section 423.7.5 to require all classrooms with manual fire alarm boxes located inside the classroom to remain unlocked from the outside of the room during school hours even if the classroom itself is not in use or occupied?

Answer

Yes. Florida Building Code - Building Section 423.7.5 states, in part that "Sending stations may be located inside student-occupied spaces, adjacent to the primary exit door only if the door to the occupied space is unlocked at all times while the facility is occupied." If the manual fire alarm pull stations are only in the classrooms, then the classrooms with manual fire alarm pull stations are required to remain unlocked any time the facility, or a portion of a facility is occupied. This is in place so that an occupant can activate the fire alarm system when a fire occurs. This includes when the facility is occupied during lunch periods, after school programs, nighttime use and weekend use.

Commentary:

FBC 423.5.6.4 defines "Educational facility" as "consists of buildings and equipment, structures, and special educational use areas that are built, installed, or established to serve primarily the educational purposes and secondarily the social and recreational purposes of the community." In other words, it is any and all of the buildings located on a school campus.

Notice:

The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation, ICC, and industry and professional experts offer this interpretation of the Florida Building Code in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This interpretation is informal, non-binding and subject to acceptance and approval by the local building official.