



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 6593**



Date August 19, 2010

Edition 2007

Section 907.3.1

Question:

Is it the intent of Florida Building Code - Building Section 907.3.1 to require manual fire alarm boxes to be located inside a space, such as a classroom in a public educational facility, not more than 5 feet from the classroom's only door which exits directly to the exterior or can the pull station be located outside the classroom's single exit door?

Answer

It depends. It is the intent of the code to require the pull stations to be on the inside of the exit door. Simply leading to the outside may not necessarily make a door an exit, as opposed to exit access or means of egress. The requestor does not specify whether the door from the classroom leads into a restricted pathway which depending on arrangement could still be part of the exit access. Please see the attached commentary.

Commentary:

DOE enforces this requirement as follows: Pull stations are required by NFPA 72- 5.12.6 (02 Edition) and 5.13.6 (07 Edition) to be located within 5 feet of the "exit doorway" or "exit access." The pull station shall not be obstructed by the swing of the door or any object/material. Therefore, if a first floor classroom exits directly to the exterior, it shall have a pull station at the door. However, if the classroom exits into a designed path that does not allow random exiting but requires the evacuees to follow an exterior hall/corridor, one side is the building and the other has a physical barrier, then the "exit doorway" or "exit access" is at the point where the physical barrier ends. The placement of the pull station at each barrier end

point meets the NFPA 72 requirements. Any other first floor classroom that does not open onto the designed exit path is required to have a pull station inside the room. The two hundred (200) foot rule {NFPA 72-5.12.8 (02 Edition) and 5.13.8 (07 Edition)} for placing pull stations shall also apply. For multi-story buildings, a pull station is required at the head of all stairways exiting the floor and also at 200 foot intervals on the floor along the egress path.

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.