



SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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STANDARD DETAILS & SPECIFICATIONS	Spec No	<u>SI-6</u>
	Review Date	_____
	Revis. Date.	<u>07/01/2020</u>
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	Approved By	<u>[Signature]</u>
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SUBJECT: Access-Controlled Doors		

SCOPE

This Standard applies to building and tenant spaces with entrances and/or interior doors that are electrically access-controlled.

AUTHORITY

The 2019 California Fire Code (C.F.C) 506.1, CFC 901.4.4

BACKGROUND

The California Building Code (CBC) contains specific regulations for Access-controlled Egress Doors and Electromagnetically-Locked Egress Doors. These types of systems are typically installed when access to or within a building or tenant space is controlled via key-cards, key-codes or by other means.

While these access control systems are regulated by the CBC for safe occupant egress, the regulations do not address the difficulties encountered by emergency responders when these systems include multiple doors that are access-controlled. Because of the additional and special hazard created by access-control systems when emergency responders must gain immediate access for life-saving or fire-fighting purposes, the provisions of this Standard shall apply as deemed necessary by the Fire Code Official.

REQUIREMENTS

Buildings or tenant spaces having electrically powered access-control doors shall also be equipped with provisions to unlock the doors for Fire Department access under emergency conditions as specified below. (See additional requirements in the CBC for unlocking interior stairway door).

I. Where Required

- A. A key operated switch, for Fire Department use only, shall be provided adjacent to the main building entrance(s), or tenant space entrance(s), or as otherwise





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approved by the Fire Code Official. The switch shall be keyed to the Fire Department's Knox Key System. In lieu of the Knox keyed switch, a non-keyed maintained-type switch may be installed within a Fire Department approved key lock box and located as approved by the Fire Code Official.

- B. Operation of the switch shall unlock or release all access-controlled doors to or within the building or tenant space, as determined necessary by the Fire Code Official. **Note that when required fire-rated doors are unlocked they shall always remain latched.** All doors shall remain unlocked until the system is manually reset.

Exception: When approved by the Chief, a key switch is not required when only the exterior building or tenant space main entrance doors are electrically access-controlled and an approved key lock box is provided. The number and location of the key lock boxes shall be as approved by the Fire Department. Each key lock box shall contain master keys that will unlock all doors associated with the building or tenant space. Note that card-keys are not acceptable for this purpose. Unlocking doors via a master key shall cause the door(s) to remain unlocked until manually re-locked.

