

**PROVIDE SIGN OVER MAIN EXIT DOOR**  
*"THIS DOOR TO REMAIN OPEN DURING BUSINESS HOURS"*

CODE SECTIONS

*International Fire Code 2006 Edition*

**1008.1.8.3 Locks and latches.** Locks and latches shall be permitted to prevent operation of doors where any of the following exists:

1. Places of detention or restraint.
2. In buildings in occupancy Group A having an occupant load of 300 or less, Groups B, F, M and S, and in places of religious worship, the main exterior door or doors are permitted to be equipped with key-operated locking devices from the egress side provided:
  - 2.1. The locking device is readily distinguishable as locked.
  - 2.2. A readily visible durable sign is posted on the egress side on or adjacent to the door stating: **THIS DOOR TO REMAIN UNLOCKED WHEN BUILDING IS OCCUPIED.** The sign shall be in letters 1 inch (25mm) high on a contrasting background.
  - 2.3. The use of the key-operated locking device is revocable by the fire code official for due cause.
3. Where egress doors are used in pairs, approved automatic flush bolts shall be permitted to be used, provided that the door leaf having the automatic flush bolts has no doorknob or surface-mounted hardware.

EXPLANATION

All exit doors shall be easily opened from the interior without the use of a key, combination, or any special knowledge or effort. One simple, single motion should open the door. Doors need to swing open easily. If the door is equipped with a deadbolt, the bolt must release with the same motion that opens the door knob or latch. No chains, bolts, bars, etc. are allowed.

In Group B, F, M, S and A-3 Occupancies and in all churches, only the front or main door may have a key operated deadbolt. Both the inside and outside mechanism must be operated with a key-no thumbatches. Additionally, if keyed deadbolt type of lock is employed, a permanent, durable sign must be posted over the door stating "THIS DOOR TO REMAIN OPEN DURING BUSINESS HOURS. If the door served by this deadbolt type lock has two doors or leaves, the flush bolts on the other door must release with the keyed deadbolt. Again, only one motion unlocks both doors. Flush mounted barrel bolts and latches on the edge of the door are prohibited. Hotel rooms and residential homes are exempt from this requirement and may have deadbolts or other locking devices on the individual room doors.