



## Long-Term Care Regulatory Provider Letter

<b>Number:</b> PL 18-25 (ALF, DAHS, HCSSA, ICF/IID, NF, PPECC)
<b>Title:</b> Delayed-Egress Locks
<b>Provider Types:</b> Assisted Living Facilities (ALF), Day Activity and Health Services Facilities (DAHS), Inpatient Hospice Home and Community Support Services Agencies (HCSSA), Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with an Intellectual Disability or Related Conditions (ICF/IID), Nursing Facilities (NF), Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Centers (PPECC)
<b>Date Issued:</b> November 26, 2018

### 1.0 Subject and Purpose

Delayed-egress locks may be used as allowed by the National Fire Protection Association publication, *NFPA 101, Life Safety Code* (NFPA 101),<sup>1</sup> made applicable to an ALF, a DAHS, an inpatient hospice home and community support services agency (inpatient hospice), an ICF/IID, a NF, or a PPECC under Texas Administrative Code, Title 40 (40 TAC) Chapter 92, 98, 97, 90, 19, or 15,<sup>2</sup> respectively. This provider letter (PL) provides guidance on the maximum time allowed for a delayed-egress lock to release and facility-specific requirements for the use of a delayed-egress lock.

### 2.0 Policy Details & Provider Responsibilities

In addition to the other requirements regarding delayed-egress locks set forth in section 7.2.1.6.1 of the applicable edition of NFPA 101, a **delayed-egress lock must release within 15 seconds** after the application of force to the release device.

The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) with respect to licensure of an ALF, a DAHS, an inpatient hospice, an ICF/IID, a NF and a PPECC. NFPA 101 section 7.2.1.6.1 notes that an AHJ may authorize a release time of up to 30 seconds on a delayed-egress lock, but HHSC has not authorized an exception to the requirement that a delayed-egress lock must release within 15 seconds. Therefore, any delayed-egress lock permitted and used by a provider to which this PL applies must release within 15 seconds after the application of force to the release device on the lock.

Additional NFPA requirements are listed by provider type in the attachment.

### **3.0 Background/History**

Based on recent feedback, HHSC is issuing this guidance to clarify the requirements concerning the use of delayed-egress locks.

### **4.0 Attachments**

NFPA Requirements by Provider Type

### **5.0 Contact Information**

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the Policy, Rules and Training Section at (512) 438-3161.

*[signature on file]*

Mary T. Henderson  
Associate Commissioner  
Long-term Care Regulatory

MTH:ca

Attachment – NFPA Requirements by Provider Type

Provider Type	Release Time	NFPA 101 References	NFPA Requirements
ALF: small (type A or B)	15 seconds	32/33.2.2.5.5	<p>Delayed-egress lock may be used on an exterior door only.</p> <p>Note: A delayed-egress lock may be used on a gate, since a gate is considered an exterior door, as indicated in <a href="#">Technical Memorandum 18-03</a>.</p> <p>Must meet all delayed-egress lock requirements at NFPA 101, 7.2.1.6.1.*</p>
ALF: large (type A)	15 seconds	32/33.3.2.2.2	<p>Must not be more than one delayed-egress lock in any egress path.</p> <p>Must meet all delayed-egress lock requirements at NFPA 101, 7.2.1.6.1.*</p>
		7.1.5	<p>Delayed-egress lock must not restrict headroom clearance to less than 6 feet 8 inches.</p>
ALF: large (type B)	15 seconds	18/19.2.2.2.4	<p>Must not be more than one delayed-egress lock in any egress path.</p> <p>Must meet all delayed-egress lock requirements at NFPA 101, 7.2.1.6.1.*</p>
		7.1.5	<p>Delayed-egress lock must not restrict headroom clearance to less than 6 feet 8 inches.</p>
DAHS	15 seconds	16/17.2.2.2.3	<p>Must meet all delayed-egress lock requirements at NFPA 101, 7.2.1.6.1.*</p>

Provider Type	Release Time	NFPA 101 References	NFPA Requirements
Inpatient Hospice	15 seconds	18/19.2.2.2.4	Must not be more than one delayed-egress lock in any egress path.  Must meet all delayed-egress lock requirements at NFPA 101, 7.2.1.6.1.*
		7.1.5	Delayed-egress lock must not restrict headroom clearance to less than 6 feet 8 inches.
ICF/IID: small	15 seconds	32/33.2.2.5.5.1	Delayed-egress lock may be used on an exterior door only.  Must meet all delayed-egress lock requirements at NFPA 101, 7.2.1.6.1.1.**
ICF/IID: large (residential board and care or health care occupancy)	15 seconds	32/33.3.2.2.2	Must meet all delayed-egress lock requirements at NFPA 101, 7.2.1.6.1.1.**
		18/19.2.2.2.4 7.1.5	Delayed-egress lock must not restrict headroom clearance to less than 6 feet 8 inches.
NF	15 seconds	18/19.2.2.2.4	Must meet all delayed-egress lock requirements at NFPA 101, 7.2.1.6.1.1.**
		7.1.5	Delayed-egress lock must not restrict headroom clearance to less than 6 feet 8 inches.
PPECC	15 seconds	18/19.2.2.2.4	Must not be more than one delayed-egress lock in any egress path.  Must meet all delayed-egress lock requirements at NFPA 101, 7.2.1.6.1.*
		7.1.5	Delayed-egress lock must not restrict headroom clearance to less than 6 feet 8 inches.

<p>Applies to <b>ALL:</b></p> <p><b>ALF</b> <b>DAHS</b> <b>Inpatient Hospice</b> <b>PPECC</b></p> <p>if a delayed-egress lock is used.</p> <p>*NFPA 101, 7.2.1.6.1</p>	<p>Approved, listed, delayed-egress locks shall be permitted to be installed on doors serving low and ordinary hazard contents in buildings protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic fire detection system in accordance with Section 9.6, or an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7, and where permitted in Chapters 12 through 42, provided that the following criteria are met.</p> <p>(a) The doors shall unlock upon actuation of an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7 or upon the actuation of any heat detector or activation of not more than two smoke detectors of an approved, supervised automatic fire detection system in accordance with Section 9.6.</p> <p>(b) The doors shall unlock upon loss of power controlling the lock or locking mechanism.</p> <p>(c) An irreversible process shall release the lock within 15 seconds upon application of a force to the release device required in 7.2.1.5.4 that shall not be required to exceed 15 lbf (67 N) nor be required to be continuously applied for more than 3 seconds. The initiation of the release process shall activate an audible signal in the vicinity of the door. Once the door lock has been released by the application of force to the releasing device, relocking shall be by manual means only.</p> <p>(d) *On the door adjacent to the release device, there shall be a readily visible, durable sign in letters not less than 1 in. (2.5 cm) high and not less than 1/8 in. (0.3 cm) in stroke width on a contrasting background that reads as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PUSH UNTIL ALARM SOUNDS DOOR CAN BE OPENED IN 15 SECONDS</p>
--	---

<p>Applies to <b>ALL:</b></p> <p><b>ICF/IID</b></p> <p><b>NF</b></p> <p>if a delayed-egress lock is used.</p> <p>**NFPA 101, 7.2.1.6.1.1</p>	<p>Approved, listed, delayed-egress locking systems shall be permitted to be installed on door assemblies serving low and ordinary hazard contents in buildings protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic fire detection system in accordance with Section 9.6 or an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7, and where permitted in Chapters 11 through 43, provided that all of the following criteria are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) The door leaves shall unlock in the direction of egress upon actuation of one of the following:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7</li> <li>(b) Not more than one heat detector of an approved, supervised automatic fire detection system in accordance with Section 9.6</li> <li>(c) Not more than two smoke detectors of an approved, supervised automatic fire detection system in accordance with Section 9.6</li> </ol> </li> <li>(2) The door leaves shall unlock in the direction of egress upon loss of power controlling the lock or locking mechanism.</li> <li>(3) *An irreversible process shall release the lock in the direction of egress within 15 seconds, or 30 seconds where approved by the authority having jurisdiction, upon application of a force to the release device required in 7.2.1.5.10 under all of the following conditions:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The force shall not be required to exceed 15 lbf (67 N).</li> <li>(b) The force shall not be required to be continuously applied for more than 3 seconds.</li> <li>(c) The initiation of the release process shall activate an audible signal in the vicinity of the door opening.</li> <li>(d) Once the lock has been released by the application of force to the releasing device, relocking shall be by manual means only.</li> </ol> </li> <li>(4) *A readily visible, durable sign in letters not less than 1 in. (25 mm) high and not less than 1/8 in. (3.2 mm) in stroke width on a contrasting background that reads as follows shall be located on the door leaf adjacent to the release device in the direction of egress:             <p style="text-align: center;">PUSH UNTIL ALARM SOUNDS DOOR CAN BE OPENED IN 15 SECONDS</p> </li> <li>(5) The egress side of doors equipped with delayed-egress locks shall be provided with emergency lighting in accordance with Section 7.9.</li> </ol>
--	--

## Endnote References

---

<sup>1</sup> *NFPA 101, Life Safety Code*, 2000 or 2012 edition, as applicable for the referenced provider type. See applicable provisions by provider type referenced in endnote 2.

National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101.

All references to NFPA 101 requirements can be viewed at no cost:

**To review codes and standards online at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org):**

- [View the list of NFPA's codes and standards.](#)
- Select the document you want to review.
- Select the edition of the document you want to review.
- Click the "Free access" link (under the document title)
- You will be asked to "sign-in" or create a profile to access the document in read-only format.

<sup>2</sup> 40 TAC §92.61(b)(4) requires large type B ALFs, and all type A and small ALFs, to comply, respectively, with *NFPA 101*, 2000 Edition, provisions for Healthcare and Residential Board and Care Occupancies.

40 TAC §98.42(b) requires a DAHS facility to comply with *NFPA 101*, 2000 Edition, provisions for Day-Care Occupancies.

40 TAC §97.871 requires an inpatient hospice to comply with *NFPA 101*, 2000 Edition, provisions for Healthcare Occupancies.

40 TAC §90.61 requires a licensed ICF/IID to comply with *NFPA 101*, 2012 Edition, provisions for Healthcare or Residential Board and Care Occupancies. 40 TAC §9.212 requires a certified ICF/IID that is exempt from licensure to comply with 40 TAC Chapter 90, subchapters C, D, and F. This includes §90.61, which is in subchapter D.

40 TAC §19.302 (facilities licensed before September 11, 2003), §19.331 (facilities licensed on or after September 11, 2003 and before April 2, 2018), and §19.351 (facilities licensed on or after April 2, 2018), respectively, require an NF to comply with *NFPA 101*, 2012 Edition, provisions for Healthcare Occupancies.

40 TAC §15.101 and §15.1203 require a PPECC to comply with *NFPA 101*, 2000 Edition, provisions for Healthcare Occupancies.