



Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Bureau of Fire Services

Fire Marshal Bulletin – 18

Barricade Devices on Classroom Doors

In order to maintain a safe classroom, schools have been locking their doors and exploring the use of devices to barricade the classroom door. While the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) does not “approve” specific name brand products for use, products will be allowed to be used when they are in compliance with the [New and Existing School, College and University Fire Safety Rules](#), or other alternatives specifically designed to be used as barricade devices in compliance with this correspondence and [Fire Marshal Bulletin 2 – Fire, Tornado and Lock Down Drills](#). These devices must be coupled with proper training and installation, to effectively barricade classroom doors when used during a “lock down” situation. Note: A lock down situation is not the same as a fire drill. Fire drills require proper forms of exiting from the building while a lock down situation would prevent an intruder from entering a classroom.

Barricade situations are not addressed in the Life Safety Code. However, a lock down device that is acceptable to be used as a barricade for a classroom door may not be installed on the door or door frame. The lock down device would require an individual to physically insert the device into place and is only intended for use in lock down situations. A dead-bolt lock would not be a correct form of barricade as they are installed on the door unless the deadbolt is part of the door hardware that retracts upon operation of the normal door latch handle or knob. Please be advised that BFS has no authority over ADA and accessibility requirements that may also apply.

In addition, the school, college or university should have a lock down procedure in place as these barricade devices are intended for use only during drills or actual lock down situations. Using and installing barricade devices requires a coordinated effort from administrators and staff to ensure their proper use. Training and drills are vital components to understanding how these barricade devices are intended to be used. The barricade devices would be put in place, during lock-down drills or actual lock down emergencies by a teacher or other school staff members, who are properly trained according to their facility’s emergency plan. Following a lock-down condition, the barricade device is removed and the door operation returns to normal use. You may refer to [Fire Marshal Bulletin 2 – Fire, Tornado and Lock Down Drills](#) for more specifics regarding classroom barricade devices.

For additional information or questions contact the Bureau of Fire Services at 517-241-8847.
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In summary, barricade type devices are permissible if these devices are not affixed to the classroom door or door frame and do not violate normal door hardware or the [New and Existing School, College and University Fire Safety Rules](#). In addition, some barricade devices require mounting brackets to be attached to doors. Any brackets or hardware attached to fire rated doors shall be labeled and listed for such use when required by NFPA 80. It is important that these barricade devices are able to be removable from both sides of the door. The release method from the opposite side of the classroom might not be advertised for obvious security reasons but will allow staff to open the door if the device is ever used improperly.

The Bureau along with the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Construction Codes and the Michigan Department of State Police will continue to work in concert to proactively address school security concerns while ensuring code enforcement.

Should you have any further questions, you may contact our office at 517-241-8847.

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