This is a list of all of the chat questions and comments from the Maglocks & Codes session of Above-the-Threshold of August 29, 2012

The following is provided as information only. Always check with the local AHJ and the applicable codes being enforced on each project.

"We don’t do it because it’s the CODE! We do it because it’s the right thing to do. Many people have died to prove the effectiveness and necessity of codes."

Q. How can I get a copy of the Code Inspectors Handbook?

A link was provided in the Exact Target post session announcement. But here it is again:


Q. Does your jurisdictions require a permit?

Some jurisdictions require a permit prior to allowing a Maglock installation. Check with your local planning department or AHJ to see if it’s required in your area.

Q. How can I discuss differences in code definitions?

The best solution is to purchase a copy of the State adopted code for your location and use that as a reference when working with the local AHJ.

Q. What should I do if an outside agency [i.e. The Joint Commissions] requires more stringent codes than the local AHJ?

It is best to adhere to the more stringent requirements, which will probably gain the backing of the AHJ.

Q. Are health care facilities adopting the new NFPA-80 inspection requirements?
The Joint Commissions has long had as part of their inspection process, fire and egress doors and are now requiring the annual written report on the 11 points of inspections. NFPA 101 which covers the 11 points of egress door inspections is also being enforced.

Q. A comment on working with your local AHJ?

First conduct a meet and greet session, get to know them. Offer to make a presentation as it relates to door openings. Become a trusted advisor to their team. Utilize the Code Inspectors Handbook supplied by ASSA ABLOY.

Q. Must a delayed egress door be tied to the fire alarm system and provide immediate release upon activation?

Per section 1008.1.9.7 of the 2012 IBC, delayed egress locks are permitted to be installed in buildings that are equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system or an approved automatic smoke or heat detection system. The doors must unlock upon actuation of the automatic sprinkler system or automatic fire detection system.

The code permits delayed egress locks in all occupancy groups except Group A (assembly), E (education) and H (high-hazard). Code reference IBC2006 – 1008.1.8.6; IBC2009 – 1008.1.9.7
Q. Previous codes required a push button override as well as the PIR / Motion sensor. Does a switch activated egress bar [Exit Device] override that code requirement?

depends on which building code your local jurisdiction follows. IBC2009 removed the requirement. Prior to IBC2009 a secondary button is required. A switch egress bar is permitted as the primary release in all situations in lieu of motion sensor.

Switched bars allowed in NFPA and IBC 2012 with no requirement for button or PIR sensors. Please note, we’re discussing “panic” bars, not “fire exit” hardware.

Q. Does the code cover Entrance as well as Egress?

No, the Means of Egress Sections, i.e., IBC 1008.1.4.4, 1008.1.8.7 and 1008.1.9.8 in IBC 2012 only cover egress; not ingress.

Q. How does the codes address adding a card access controlled door in the path of egress?

Card access on the egress side is only permitted to bypass alarm or for immediate egress where delayed egress is permitted. You can never use card access to prevent egress.

Q. Can you give us some guidance and / or solutions for Herculite doors? What devices and components can we use?

Touch sensitive hardware or motion activated request-to-exit switch on Herculite Doors.

Doors composed of all-glass like Herculite, were the original reason for the section "access controlled egress doors. It is still a valid code in both IBC and NFPA. With the newer codes once again allowing bars with switches, you can expect some resistance by local AHJ’s due to personal preference and misconceptions.
Q. The local AHJ will not permit delayed egress on public education facilities – even in teaching areas for special needs students. Any suggestions as to how to change the minds of the AHJ?

IBC explicitly prohibits delayed egress on E occupancies but in the case of child abductions, the codes favor screening the ingress over restricting the egress. They are more likely to favor delay in protections against baby abductions and Alzheimer’s Disease Patients

One suggestion is to conduct a meeting with the city or state attorney and explain the liability aspects for not using delayed egress which could prevent child abductions, child or patient wandering.

If they are under IBC2009, the architect can have the area classified as an I-2 Occupancy, then delayed egress is permitted.

Q. Are touch sense bars considered “switch” activated bars?

The Securitron TSB is a switch activated bar. Not all touch sense bars are, therefore you must know your product.

Q. Is there a code that requires a pneumatic timer versus an electric timer in the request-to-exit button?

Yes. Refer to IBC Chapters 3 and 4 on Use and Occupancy and Chapter 6 of NFPA-101. This will show where these are needed, such as explosive areas, such as grain elevators, flammable gases or chemicals and explosives storage. Also refer to NFPA-70 (national electric code) and on-line documents for OSHA.

Where the codes are not technology-specific, they will typically require devices to be listed or approved.

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Q. Are there instances where using a Maglock on an exterior door without battery back-up appropriate?

Sure – if there is a switched bar or switched lockset; it is done all the time.

Delivery and dock doors often use maglocks for temporary control while occupied and close these doors after hours. They are usually not exit doors, however pizza delivery shops use this method and mechanically lock the doors after hours.

Q. Does ASSA ABLOY have a document / matrix that show which states deviate from the code? Example: Louisiana will not allow TSB even if permitted by IBC.

No, with so much diversification, this is case-by-case and subject to change at any time. Reed Construction Data may help on line. Educate them on the Securitron Dual Sense Bar as a viable solution.

Q. Can you address any know issues applicable to Canada?

Canada has its version of fire and building codes – National Fire Code and National Building Code. Copies are available [where?]
Q. Aren’t Maglocks being phased out in favor of electrified locking hardware? What are some of the still appropriate applications?

Not true. What is true is there are more choices available for electrified hardware than ever before, but Maglocks are THE BEST choice for many applications. They are light, cost effective, absolutely 100% fail-safe if installed properly and are easy to install and wire. The person who asked this question should look around any airport to see how common magnets really are. Access control is easy to accomplish with the requisite amount of security by proper Maglock selection.

Fear and misunderstanding drove the codes in the wrong direction for a period of time and that affected Maglock sales for all companies. The codes have been changed and Maglocks are making a turn-around.

Delayed egress and glass doors without stiles (Herculite doors) are very appropriate applications.

The 2015 version of the IBC will contain many new provisions for electromagnetic locking applications. While many of these applications have been used on a case-by-case basis over the years, their recognition and specific provisions have been lacking in the IBC. Many of these applications will now be addressed with very specific language, giving the AHJ’s the guidance previously lacking.