Informal Interpretation

Date: September 14, 2010

NFPA Document Number: NFPA 101

Edition: 2007

Paragraph Reference: 31.2.2.2.2.1 & 7.2.1.6.1

If this involves an actual situation, explain briefly:

Property location: 5400 Ocean Blvd, Sarasota, Florida

I notified [late 2008] the Fire Marshal [Jane E. Ross] that the two (2) exit doors, located at the exit route though the "pool area" were locked at the building managers directions. The only way to exit was to have a security key. She investiaged this and the locks were removed.

A few months later the locks were again placed on the doors and on 5/19/09, the Fire Marshal Ross and Fire Inspector Qualey visited the site and issued a notice to comply.

Eventually, one of the two doors had a mechanical release installed to allow egresses, but the other door remains locked. I had informed the Fire Marshal who stated the doors now meet code. I ask for the authorization to allow this in violation to the above cited codes and was meet with deaf ears.

If I am wrong, all I ask is to show me the regulations that allow ingree and egress doors to remain locked.

Question (should be worded so that it can be answered with either "Yes" or "No"):

Should the ingree/egress doors be allowed to remain locked in violation to NFPA (2007), chapter 31.2.2.2.2.1 and 7.2.1.6.1?

Answer:

Denied; too vague and calls for ruling not consistent with committee’s charge.

Committee Answer Submitted by,

Bart Wright, Chair
Informal Fire Code Interpretation Committee