

POLICY NUMBER: 26-013

KEYED LOCKS ON INTERIOR DOORS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure occupant safety and provide unobstructed egress from all habitable spaces by prohibiting the use of key-operated locks on the interior side of dwelling unit doors. Eliminating keyed locks helps prevent entrapment during emergencies, supports rapid evacuation, and ensures compliance with applicable provisions of the California Building Code (CBC) and California Health & Safety Code (HSC).

POLICY

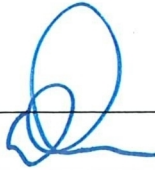
Key-operated locks shall not be installed on the interior side of doors providing egress from sleeping rooms, bathrooms, or other habitable spaces within residential buildings. All such doors must be equipped with latching or locking devices that can be **readily opened from the inside without the use of a key, special knowledge, or effort**, in accordance with **CBC Section 1010.1.9.3** and **HSC Section 13113.7**.

Installation of keyed interior locks that require a key, tool, or special operation to unlock from the inside is not permitted under any circumstances.

All new installations, remodels, and retrofit projects shall comply with this policy and be verified during inspection.

ANALYSIS

- 1. Life Safety and Egress:** Keyless operation allows occupants to exit immediately during fire, earthquake, or other emergencies without delay or confusion.
- 2. Code Compliance:** CBC Section 1010.1.9.3 requires egress doors to be operable from the inside without a key or special knowledge. HSC Section 13113.7 also prohibits locking mechanisms that impede emergency egress.
- 3. Fire and Rescue Access:** In emergencies, quick and unobstructed egress reduces risk of injury or fatality and allows firefighters or first responders' easier access.
- 4. Occupant Protection:** Prohibiting keyed interior locks prevents accidental lock-ins, especially involving children, elderly residents, or individuals with disabilities.

<u>Approved:</u> David Dent <i>Deputy Director/Chief Building Official</i>	Signature: 
	Date: 3/4/22