



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	07-30-04	Interpretation #	REVISED 04-015
Topic	Delayed Egress Devices on Courtroom Doors		
Code Section(s)	2001 California Building Code, Section 1003.3.1.8 & 1003.3.1.10		
Requested by	Johnny Jee, Assistant Fire Chief Los Angeles County Fire Department 1320 N. Eastern Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90063-3294		

In a courthouse classified as a Group A, Division 3 occupancy, would it be acceptable to install a button located at the bailiff's desk to enable the staff to lock the main entrance and/or all other egress doors out of the courthouse for 15 seconds should a disruption occur in the courtroom? In this scenario, the button would also be used to summon additional deputies.

No. A courtroom is categorized as a Group B occupancy and not a Group A, Division 3 occupancy. This interpretation is based on California Attorney General's Opinion CV 74-138 (September 25, 1974) which states that "A courtroom could not properly be brought within the scope of Health and Safety Code Section 13143". In other words, a courtroom could not be a Group A, E, I, R-2 or R-6 occupancy since these are the occupancies addressed by that code section. Therefore, a courtroom would most closely resemble a Group B occupancy.

Section 1003.3.1.10 of the California Building Code (2001) does permit "special egress control devices" in Group B occupancies. However, the "button" device that you describe does not meet the criteria defined in Section 1003.3.1.10 for special egress control devices.

Please bear in mind that on a case-by-case basis, the local authority having jurisdiction has the option of considering alternate methods of protection when it is deemed necessary.