



## California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	07-19-01	Interpretation #	01-009
Topic	<b>Pedestrian Gates in School Perimeter Fencing</b>		
Code Section(s)	<b>§1007.3.11, California Building Code (1998 ed)</b>		
Requested by	<b>Brian Heyman Division of the State Architect 1130 K Street, Suite 101 Sacramento, CA 95814</b>		
Prepared by	<b>Hugh Council, Division Chief (916) 445-8200</b>		

**Are pedestrian gates in school perimeter fencing required to be equipped with panic hardware if a safe area of dispersal (3 sq ft per occupant) is provided at least 50 feet from the building?**

No. Section 1007.3.11 of the California Building Code specifies that gates may be equipped with locks provided a safe dispersal area (3 sq ft per occupant) is provided between the school and the fence. The dispersal area must be at least 50 feet from the school buildings.

Additionally, Section 32020 of the California Education Code requires that “if such gates are to be equipped with locks, the locking devices shall be designed to permit ready entrance by the use of chain or bolt-cutting devices with which the local law enforcement and fire protection agencies may be equipped.”