

February 8, 2010

NOTICE OF WAIVER OPTION

RE: Magnetic Hold Open Device on REQUIRED Fire Rated Doors

Introduction: Fire doors are designed to be kept closed at all times to ensure their effectiveness in preventing smoke and heat from entering the Means of Egress, in maintaining adequate fire compartmentation and to stop the spread of fire. It is important to understand that fire doors are a vital piece of the building fire protection system and is required to be kept shut unless an electro-magnetic device is installed to hold the door open that releases automatically upon activation of the fire alarm or sprinkler system.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal recognizes the installation of an electro-magnetic hold open device that is tied into the fire alarm system can be somewhat cost prohibitive for many Kansas School buildings especially during the current weakened economy. However, it is imperative that facilities continue to strive for full compliance as soon as possible.

The following guidelines are hereby allowed within educational buildings that were built prior to the year 2000, until further notice:

- 1) Any required fire-relate classroom door that is held-open must be equipped with an electro-magnetic hold open device that is capable of being tied into the fire alarm and/or sprinkler system
- 2) If the electro-magnetic device is not going to be tied into the fire alarm/sprinkler system immediately upon installation due to cost of contractors, wiring, etc. the facility must submit a waiver request
- 3) The waiver request must include the following:
 - a. Specific locations and room use of any/all electro-magnetic devices that are to be tied into the fire alarm/sprinkler system and are not connected
 - b. Manufacturer information on the types of electro-magnetic devices installed to show the capability of being tied into the fire alarm/sprinkler system
 - c. A statement that the doors will only be held-open when a staff member is present and utilizing the room
 - d. A statement that the electro-magnetic devices will be tied into the building fire alarm/sprinkler system as soon as facility budget allows; but not exceed 01/01/2015

Termination of waiver: If at any time a facility is found to be in noncompliance with an approved waiver; the waiver will be revoked and the facility will have to connect or remove the hold-open device immediately.

Exclusion 1: this waiver will not be accepted for smoke barrier/fire wall doors, hazardous rooms, or storage areas greater than 100sq ft.

Exclusion 2: this waiver will be accepted for buildings built on/after the year 2000.