

KSFM 2024-005 - KSFM Prevention Information Release

To: Educational Occupancies

Date: April 26, 2024

Subject: Lockdown Magnetic Strips for Door Frames



The Kansas State Fire Marshal's office (KSFM) is committed to helping the community enhance security in case of an active shooter incident. Many schools and businesses are taking proactive steps to create a safe environment.

In February 2023, the Kansas State Fire Marshal's issued a statewide variance to school districts across Kansas from certain requirements of the Kansas Fire Prevention Code. This variance was issued in order to help address schools' needs in preparing for, and responding to, active shooter and lock down situations. The variance was issued for all Kindergarten through 12, and postsecondary educational buildings in Kansas.

This variance allows covered institutions to continue the use of additional add-on security devices for classroom doors with prior approval by the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office.

One of the devices that has been allowed is the use of magnetic strips on door frames (see picture below as example). This allows for the quick and easy securing of classroom doors in the event of a lockdown situation. During annual inspections of school districts, our inspectors have found these devices being utilized daily for purposes other than what they have been approved for. This device is to only be utilized when the classroom is occupied. At all other times, the doors must be allowed to close securely to help prevent the spread of fire.

The Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office asks that schools please look at how these devices are being utilized, and make sure your building is code compliant with the State of Kansas Variance. As a reminder, the variance requires schools and districts to contact their local fire, law enforcement, and first responder community to confidentially share with them the types of devices being used so that the responders know what to expect in any type of response.



For questions and to assist you in complying with the requirements, the KSFM has a section on its website devoted to schools. Please visit www.firemarshal.ks.gov/documentcenter In the "Resources" section, select Kindergarten through 12 Schools, or select Colleges and Universities.

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