



Technical Advisory

Title: Dutch Doors

Issued: November 2002

Dutch doors may be used within a contained use area, defined as a supervised area containing one or more rooms in which occupant movement is restricted to a single room by security measures not under control of the occupant. The contained use area must be separated from the remainder of the building by a fire separation having a one-hour fire resistance.

Dutch doors are permitted in care facilities only if the building is fully sprinklered and has an appropriate fire alarm system.

The room(s) must be supervised anytime the door, or any part, is secured shut so the occupant(s) cannot escape independently. Supervision must be a person in the immediate area, specifically tasked with supervising the room(s). The facility must also have a measure, identified within their safety plan, to ensure the relocation/evacuation of the person(s) secured in the room(s) in an emergency.

A dutch door must be designed so that when the upper and lower doors are closed they form a smoke tight seal. This may be accomplished by having an overlapping rabbit and weather stripping or an astragal may be used, provided weather stripping is placed to make the door smoke tight. (See diagrams)

The door sections may be fitted with hardware that allows the occupant to be secured in the room. However, the door hardware must allow the full door and door sections to be opened from the outside without keys, special devices or specialized knowledge of the latching device(s). The door hardware must allow the full door or door sections to be opened when the latch is operated from the outside by turning a knob or lever not more than 90 degrees, whether the hardware is in the locked or unlocked position.

The top of the door must latch into the bottom of the door. The top section may not have a latching device that prevents the full door (top and bottom sections) from being opened by releasing a single latching device. The full door must be opened using the single latching device in the bottom section of the door. The latching device to secure the top of the door to the bottom must be releasable from the outside without keys, special devices or specialized knowledge of the latching device(s), by turning a knob or lever not more than 90 degrees. It is permitted to have a latching device to secure the top section of the door in the open position.

Technical Advisory

Title: Dutch Doors

Diagram A The location of latching devices permitted on the door.

Diagram B An overlapping rabbit. Weather stripping must be placed on one of the rabbits to ensure a smoke tight seal of the door.

Diagram C An astragal. The astragal must be large enough to cover the gap between top and bottom door sections and the complete side to side.

