



THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF LOCK AND BUILDERS HARDWARE MANUFACTURERS
ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT DER VERBANDE DER EUROPÄISCHEN SCHLOSS - UND BESCHLAGINDUSTRIE
FEDERATION EUROPEENE DES ASSOCIATIONS DE FABRICANTS DE SERRURES ET FERRURES

Draft Italian regulation for the choice of Panic and Emergency exit devices

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WG C – Standardization
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Present CEN provisions applying to exits and exit devices

- Two European Standards (EN 1125 and EN 179) define mechanical devices for panic and emergency exits.
- Two draft European Standards (prEN 13637 and prEN 13633) define electrically controlled systems for panic and emergency exits.
- But... no CEN provisions define which doors on escape routes are panic exits and which emergency exits.

Responsibility of local authorities

- The lack of a CEN definition of where to use panic and emergency exit devices is due to the fact that the Commission has stated that such a definition is responsibility of local competent authorities.



The problem of the choice of Panic and Emergency exits and its Safety consequences



- In default of a common and objective definition of where to use panic and emergency exit devices, the choice of the devices to install on escape route doors is made through a risk analysis based on personal and subjective criteria.
- In Italy, the result of this risk analysis, based on personal criteria, is that we often see on exits of the same kind, having the same risk level, devices of different kind, having a different safety level.

Italian approach to the problem of the choice of Panic and Emergency exit devices

- ASSOFERMA, the Italian association of building hardware manufacturers, has contacted the Technical and Scientific Committee of the Fire Brigade, Italian competent authority for the fire prevention, asking it to create an ad hoc group for the solution of the problem of the choice of panic and emergency exit devices.

The ad hoc group

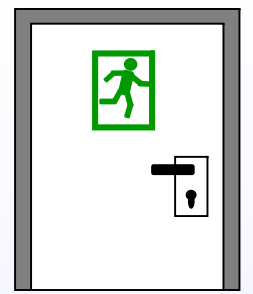
- It has been created an ad hoc group comprehending:
 - The Technical and Scientific Committee of the Fire Brigade, local competent authority for the fire prevention reporting to the Home Office
 - ASSOFERMA, the Italian association of the building hardware manufacturers
 - UCCT and ACMI, two Italian associations of fire door manufacturers

Work done and findings

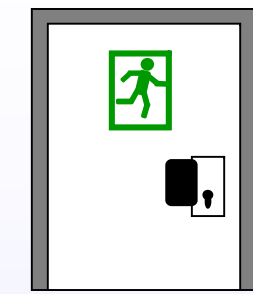
- The ad hoc group has made a research and an analysis of the existing Italian regulations applying to exits and exit hardware.
- On the basis of the results of the analysis, the ad hoc group has prepared a draft document which:
 - amends the existing regulations applying to exits and exit hardware and
 - covers activities, not included in the existing regulations, for which the fire prevention is mandatory.

Draft Italian regulation for the choice of Panic and Emergency exit devices

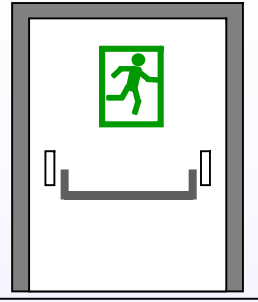
- Field of application
 - The draft Italian regulation applies to mechanical devices intended for use on escape route doors of activities falling within the scope of the fire prevention regulation.



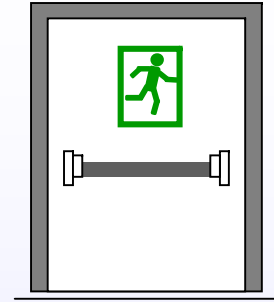
EN 179 choice criteria



- A. Devices complying at least with EN 179, or with an equivalent standard, shall be installed on escape route doors when one of these conditions applies:
 - a.1. the activity is open to the public and the door may be used by less than 10 people
 - a.2. the activity is not open to the public and the door may be used by a number of people greater than 9 and lower than 26

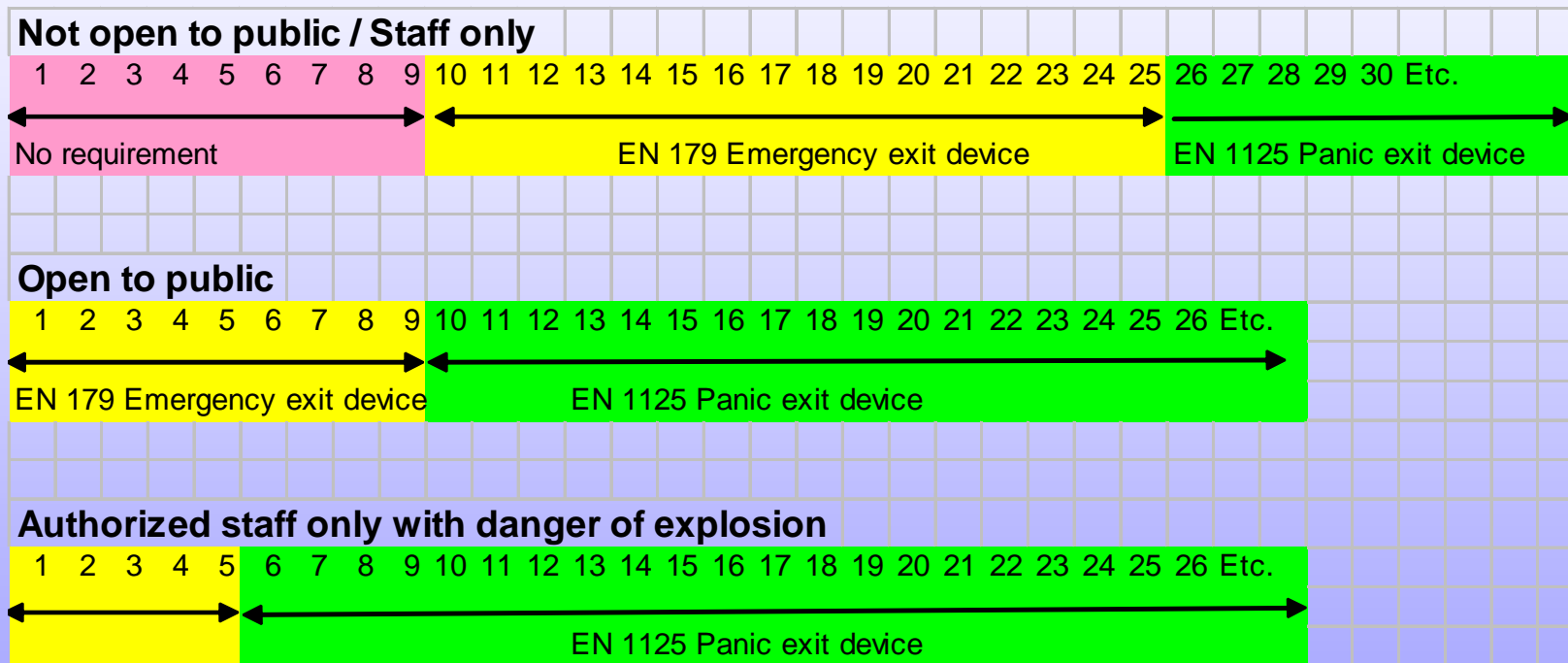


EN 1125 choice criteria



- B. Devices complying with EN 1125, or with an equivalent standard, shall be installed on escape route doors when at least one of these conditions applies:
 - b.1 the activity is open to the public and the door may be used by more than 9 people
 - b.2 the activity is not open to the public and the door may be used by more than 25 people
 - b.3 the premises, containing processes and materials which may cause dangers of explosion or fire, are intended for more than 5 staff (authorized people)

EN 1125 & EN 179 choice criteria



Responsibility of manufacturers, installers and users

- The draft Italian regulation states that:
 - The manufacturer shall supply detailed instructions for the choice, according to the intended use, the installation and the maintenance of the device.
 - The installer shall follow the manufacturer's installation instructions and shall draw up and hand an installation compliance report to the owner.
 - The user shall keep the installation compliance report and shall undertake the maintenance checks, specified by the manufacturer, keeping a record of them.

Transitional period for not CE marked devices already installed when the Italian regulation becomes effective

- The draft Italian regulation establishes a six-year transitional period starting from the date at which it becomes effective.
- During the transitional period, not CE marked devices already installed can still be used providing that they are maintained in such a way that they are in a satisfactory working condition. When this is no more possible or when doors are modified, not CE marked devices shall be replaced with CE marked devices.
- When the transitional period expires, not CE marked devices shall be replaced with CE marked devices.

Hotel room doors

- It is interesting to remark that in the CEN member countries where the local competent authority has stated that hotel room doors are doors on escape routes, the hardware installed on hotel room doors shall comply with:
 - EN 179, when doors open in the direction opposite to the direction of exit
 - EN 179 or EN 1125, when doors open in the direction of exit



Thank you

