

**Administrative Ruling/Interpretation**

**Subject:** Locking Devices

**Uniform Fire Code/Standard Reference:** 1.102, 2.301(b), and 12.106(c) **Code Edition:** 1991

**Date of Decision:** July 19, 1993

**Description of the Problem:**

A problem has been identified whereas a variety of locking systems have been installed throughout the community in a variety of occupancy types for very diverse reasons. These locking systems include manual and automatic unlocking types serving both security and safety concerns. As the Uniform codes have not historically allowed these conditions specifically, this Administrative Ruling shall serve as the Department's official policy in dealing with these issues and/or concerns.

**Conclusion:**

It is the intent of the Department to include this language into the code amendments as adopted by the City of Colorado Springs at the earliest convenient opportunity. Until such time as this occurs, Uniform Fire Code Section 2.301(b) allows the use of alternate methods if the Chief finds the proposed design, use, or operation complies with the intent of the code. It is the position of the Department that these alternate methods do, in fact, meet the spirit of the code in providing a "reasonable degree of safety for life and property" as described in Section 1.102 and are, therefore, approved for use.

**Policy and Ruling:**

In groups B, E, I, and R occupancies, approved manual or automatic locking or safety devices may be used where it is necessary to forcibly restrain the individual liberties of inmates, patients, or children to assure their personal safety or to provide enhanced security where it has been demonstrated that this level of protection is needed. The information concerning the style/type of locking system used must then be provided into the History File (Variance File) so future inspection personnel are aware that the locking system utilized has been inspected and approved for use.

**Approved by:**

David E. Linebaugh, Code Manager