

Escape Doors

Escape doors play a crucial role in ensuring safety within buildings. Strategically located on the perimeter, these doors offer direct access to safe areas during emergency situations, allowing occupants to evacuate quickly and efficiently.

Regulatory Requirements

The National Building Regulations specify that escape doors must be positioned on escape routes at ground level. These doors are required to open directly into public spaces or approved open areas. Additionally, escape doors must open in the direction of escape and be hinged, as sliding doors are not allowed for escape routes.

Types of Escape Doors

There are two primary types of escape doors:

- **Panic escape doors:** These doors are equipped with a bar across their width and are designed to always open outward.
- **Emergency escape doors:** These doors use a push pad or lever handle. While most open outward, some may open inward, although this configuration is uncommon.

Hardware Requirements

All escape door hardware must enable easy outward opening without requiring special knowledge, keys, or tools. Escape doors cannot be locked in a manner that prevents immediate use in emergencies.

Essential Hardware

Key hardware components for escape doors include:

- Hinges or pivots
- Panic bars (for panic doors)
- Push pads or lever handles (for emergency doors)
- Door closers

Important Signs and Other Key Items

Escape doors must have clear signage to guide occupants during emergencies. Required signage