

CHAPTER 14

FIRE SAFETY—PHYSICAL SECURITY ASPECTS

Introduction

14.1 Physical security of Defence assets is an important component of the total asset protection policy. In the past conflict between the requirements for physical security and fire safety requirements have occurred, particularly in the areas of means of egress and perimeter security.

References

14.2 Reference should be made to the following related publications:

- a. *Defence Security Manual (DSM)*;
- b. Building Code of Australia (BCA); and
- c. Australian Standard (AS) 1905.1—*Components for the Protection of Openings in Fire Resistant Walls—Fire Resistant Doorsets*.
- d. *Defence Construction Security Reference Manual*.

Definitions

14.3 Within the context of this chapter 'exit' means:

- a. an internal or external stairway;
- b. a ramp;
- c. a fire-isolated passageway;
- d. a doorway opening to a road or open space; or any combination of the above providing egress from a storey to a road or open space; or
- e. a horizontal exit or a fire-isolated passageway leading to a horizontal exit.

Security requirements are also often required on doors in the path of travel to exits and in such cases the requirements for exit doors shall apply.

Aim

14.4 The aim of this chapter is to, as far as is possible, eliminate the possibility of conflict between fire safety and physical security requirements.

Physical security/means of egress

14.5 Means of egress from Defence buildings shall be in accordance with the requirements of the BCA.

14.6 Perimeter security may involve the locking of all external doors at ground floor, basement levels and possibly additional floor levels depending on the level of security required.

14.7 Required levels of security may be achieved by:

- a. mechanical locks;
- b. electromechanical locks; and
- c. electromagnetic locks, in combination with mechanical locks.

14.8 Only those locks endorsed by the Security Construction Equipment Committee shall be used to achieve the required levels of physical security. Where electromechanical or electromagnetic locks are installed on 'exit' doors, they shall be accompanied by a break glass manual override release device, installed on the egress side adjacent the door.

Internal fire resistant doorsets

14.9 Door hardware, in the form of locksets installed on fire resistant doorsets, must previously have been subjected to tests on a prototype of the fire doorset. No cypher type lockset has been approved for installation on a fire resistant doorset, in accordance with the requirements of AS 1905.1.

Conflict of interest

14.10 Should conflict arise in determining compliance with both physical security and fire safety requirements the matter shall be forwarded to Security Systems and Fire Engineering subject matter specialists of the Directorate of Estate Engineering Policy.