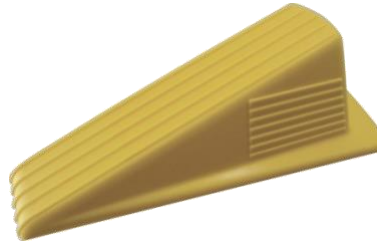


Fire And Life Safety Education

DOOR WEDGE



CODE TALK

- Per the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code and NFPA 80 Fire Doors Standards Code hospitals are required keep each door maintained and fully functional according to the intent in which it was installed.
- “Temporary Use” of a door wedge is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the UIHC Fire and Life Safety management team.
- If an open door automatically swings to a normally closed position or closes due to a fire alarm, it **CANNOT** be held/propped open by a door wedge or like device. Each door that automatically swings to the closed position has been installed with a device to allow it to close completely.
 - Typical doors that will have this closing device installed:
 - Stairwell Door(s)
 - Medical Gas Door(s)
 - Mechanical Room Doors
 - Clean/Dirty Utility Door(s)
 - Medication Room Door(s)
 - Security Door(s)
 - Housekeeping Door(s)
 - Corridor Double Door(s)
 - Others Doors Per Code Requirements

QUESTION(S) AND ANSWER(S)

- **Why are doors installed with a device that closes them automatically?**
 - Doors with closing devices are put in place to protect occupants in the event of a fire or to ensure that the security needs of an area are met.
- **Who regulates the requirements on the use of a door wedge?**
 - The Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) and The Joint Commission (TJC) have recognized the need to regulate the use of a door wedge as it possesses a high risk to patients and other occupants of a hospital in the event of a fire or security emergency.
- **Why is there a door closer on my door even though it’s not on the list of typical doors?**
 - Depending on the location of your door it may be part of the overall building fire protection plan and may also have a fire rating sticker or nameplate as shown below. Please contact the UIHC Life Safety Manager – Andy Kuse (andrew-kuse@uiowa.edu) for further assistance or details.



EXAMPLES OF NONCOMPLIANCE



NONCOMPLIANT

Door wedge propping a door open at the floor.



NONCOMPLIANT

Door wedge propping a door open between the door and the door frame.