



An ALLIED UNIVERSAL Company

# Hardware Requirements When Considering Escape

COMPLYING WITH NCP-109



This document is designed to outline the scope of the latest issue of **National Security Inspectorate (NSI) NCP-109** – issue 04 September 2024 code of practice and the process that G4S will follow in order to operate in compliance.

## What is G4S relationship with the National Security Inspectorate (NSI)?

G4S is an NSI Gold certified company.

We need to comply with NSI requirements in order to issue certificates, avoid non conformances and in many cases to satisfy clients insurance requirements.

One of the NSI requirements is to comply with NCP-109 when specifying access control.

## What is NCP-109?

NCP-109 refers to the NSI Code of Practice for the design, installation and maintenance of access control systems.

It's the recognised standard in the security industry, providing guidance and best practices for ensuring the effective and reliable operation of access control systems.



## Escape Classification and NCP-109

When considering access management, you or your advisors must take the lead on your building or escape strategy within your premises.

When doing so, there are 3 classifications of doors possible:

- ❶ The door is not an escape door
- ❷ The door is an emergency escape door
- ❸ The door is a panic escape door

G4S cannot determine the classification on a clients behalf, this needs to be the Responsible Person for the building.

Simply looking at a door cannot determine the escape classification, how and by whom it is used is part of the decision.

There is no discretion to ignore the regulations based on history or a clients preference. Remember the Responsible Person is just that - responsible for complying with the regulations relating to escape from a building.

## What is the key amendment in scope of NCP-109 in the latest revision

The latest issue of NCP-109 mandates that if a door is identified as an escape door, it requires the relevant hardware.

- Handle egress for BS EN179
- Push bar egress for BS EN1125

This EXCLUDES the use of mag locks UNLESS they are incorporated into a BS EN13637 compliant system. These tend to be required where controlled egress may be in both directions or where delayed egress is desired.

## What does that mean in practice?

- A For a non escape door**  
Any locking device may be specified.
- B For an emergency escape door**  
A locking device should be specified in line with standard BSEN 179 This means a handle or push paddle must be used to egress.



- C For a Panic escape door**  
A locking device should be specified in line with standard BSEN 1125 This means a pushbar / crash bar must be used for egress.



## What about existing doors?

**Where a door is already access controlled**, we will replace the lock to at least the existing standard. So we would replace an existing faulty maglock with a replacement maglock.

**For any existing doors** that are becoming access controlled or for new doors - the A,B,C process outlined above should be followed.

**Where the door itself is being replaced**, we will only fit compliant hardware, even where the previous door might have incorporated a maglock.

*“Doors classified as ‘Emergency Exit’ or ‘Panic Exit’ in accordance with EN 179 or EN 1125 must be fitted with compliant hardware, in order to meet the requirements of NSI’s Code of Practice NCP 109.4. The use of non-compliant hardware would prevent the issuance of an NSI Certificate of Compliance – (key for client and insurer confidence). Furthermore, installation of such non-compliant hardware by an NSI certified company would constitute a breach of NSI’s Approval Criteria.”*

David Robinson  
NSI Approval Schemes Manager

## Where should I go for further advice?

**These links provide a host of information and additional clarification:**

- [Protecting Lives and Property](#)
- [Practical Guide to Escape Routes](#)
- [Escape Door Locks Standards](#)
- [Code of Practice Hardware for Fire and Escape Doors](#)
- [Panic Escape Hardware – Your Questions Answered](#)

## Additional further education

- [Foundation Course for Security Managers, Lock Centres , End Users and Specifiers](#)
- [Security and Emergency Exit Doorsets Training Course](#)

**Contact G4S for more information**

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