

ANSI/BHMA A156.29-2012
Revision of ANSI/BHMA A156.29 – 2007



STANDARD
FOR
EXIT LOCKS, EXIT ALARMS, ALARMS FOR EXIT DEVICES



SPONSOR
BUILDERS HARDWARE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE
Approved November 28, 2012

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Published by
BUILDERS HARDWARE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
355 Lexington Avenue New York, New York 10017
www.buildershardware.com
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Printed in the USA

Portions of this standard were first published as a part of A156.5 for Auxiliary Locks & Associated Products by the Builders Hardware Manufacturers Association, Inc. ANSI approval was secured under the Canvass Method. BHMA was accredited on 21 March 1983 by ANSI as a sponsor using the Canvass Method.

FOREWORD (This Foreword is not a part of ANSI/BHMA A156.29)

The general classification of builders hardware includes a wide variety of items which are divided into several categories. To recognize this diversity, a sectional classification system has been established. Exit Devices is one such section and this Standard is the result of the collective efforts of members of the Builders Hardware Manufacturers Association, Inc. who manufacture this product. The total Product Standards effort is, therefore, a collection of sections, each covering a specific category of items.

Performance tests, and, where necessary, dimensional requirements, have been established to ensure safety, security and stability to which the public is entitled. There are no restrictions on design, except for those dimensional requirements imposed for the reasons given above.

This Standard is not intended to obstruct, but rather to encourage, the development of improved products, methods, and materials. The BHMA recognizes that errors will be found, items will become obsolete, and new products, methods, and materials will be developed. With this in mind, the Association plans to update, correct, and revise these Standards on a regular basis. It shall also be the responsibility of manufacturers to request such appropriate revisions.

In most cases, products have been described in grade levels related to performance and security. Choice of grade and specific product are made on the basis of utility, aesthetics, security objectives and end use desired. When two different graded products are combined in an assembly, the whole assembly carries the lower grade of the products.

The BHMA numbers which indicate types of hardware do not identify grade, finish, or design and are not intended to be used without necessary supplementary information. Individual manufacturers' catalogs are consulted.

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1. SCOPE

1.1 ANSI/BHMA A156.29 establishes requirements for Exit Locks, Exit Alarms and Alarms for Exit Devices and includes operational and finish tests. Alarms for Exit Devices include operational tests only.

1.2 Tests described in this Standard are performed under laboratory conditions. In actual usage, results vary because of installation, maintenance and environmental conditions.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 **Actuating Bar** The activating mechanism of an exit device is located on the egress side of a door and extends at least half the width of the door. The active surface of the actuating bar shall be visually and physically distinct from the rest of the device. Refer to local codes for location and length. Also called cross bar or push pad.

2.2 **Actuating Member** The activating mechanism including an arm, push plate or paddle assembly of an exit lock on the egress side of the door. The active surface of the actuating member shall be visually and physically distinct from the rest of the device.

2.3 **Door Prop Alarm** Alarm sounds when the door is left open longer than a defined time period. If the door prop time expires and the door is open the alarm sounds. The alarm may reset when a) the door closes or b) some other manual reset.

2.4 **Electrical Fast Transient (EFT)** "Transient" is a term applied to either parameter (Current or voltage). It describes either parameter (current or voltage) as a function of time during the period of adjustment (the transient period) when in a steady-state-circuit a switch is activated which changes the circuit and the parameters are adjusting to their new steady-state values. "Fast" is an arbitrary term, which describes the time between switch activation and the parameter becoming asymptotic to its new value. For the purposes of this Standard, a transient period of a millisecond or less is regarded as a "fast transient" or EFT.

2.5 **ESD (Electro-Static Discharge)** A transfer of electric charge between bodies of different electrostatic potential in proximity or through direct contact.

2.6 **Exit Alarm** An electrically operated monitoring device indicating, either audibly or by other signal, unauthorized opening of a door and is either stand alone, integral, or used in conjunction with an exit device or exit lock.

2.7 **Exit Device** A door latching assembly incorporating an actuating member usually called an actuating bar which releases the latch bolt(s) upon the application of force in the direction of exit travel.

2.8 **Exit Lock** A lock activated by an actuating member and used for egress where exit devices are not required. Often includes an Exit Alarm. Does not meet ANSI/BHMA A156.3 Exit Device requirements.

2.9 **RF (Radio Frequency) Energy** Electromagnetic energy at any frequency in the radio spectrum between 9 kHz and 300,000 MHz.

2.10 **Stand Alone Exit Alarm** Any exit alarm whose housing is not physically connected to the exit lock or exit device.