



FLORIDA FIRE MARSHALS AND INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

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April 16, 2020

Dear Members of FFMIA:

The FFMIA Board of Directors would like to thank the ad-hoc committee assigned to looking into remedies for the security access gates being installed in certain big box stores across the State of Florida. Thank you to committee Chair Cheryl Edwards, and committee members Karl Thompson, Shar Beddow, Douglas Carter and Alex Onishenko. A copy of their final report is attached.

An informal interpretation was issued on July 17, 2019 and the response from the committee, based on the information provided was that these devices are not prohibited by the Florida Fire Prevention Code. Also attached. An FFMIA request for a declaratory statement filed with the State Fire Marshal's Office was withdrawn after it was reported they could not rule on all sites across Florida. Each complaint must be site specific.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the FFMIA Board of Directors that these attached documents be reviewed for the code references provided if an installation submittal is received in your jurisdiction. If you feel it does not meet the intent of the Florida Fire Prevention Code you have the ability as the local AHJ to request a declaratory statement from the State Fire Marshal's Office specific to your location. Likewise, the applicant may do the same after exhausting all local appeals.

It is further recommended that you visit a local Wal-Mart that may have these devices already installed to see first-hand what you are dealing with. This will become a maintenance issue with respect to concerns about blocking exits and the potential for egress delays. You may find it will not be an issue in your area if installed to the design standards.

Respectfully,

David Woodside,
President

