

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' adoption of the 2012 Life Safety Code prohibits the use of roller latches. However, mechanisms used to maintain a door closing force of 5 pounds are still allowed in certain cases per the Life Safety Code. The excerpt from the Life Safety Code below shows the sections in question regarding rules for corridor doors as it would be amended by the CMS Conditions of Participation.

New	Existing
<p><b>18.3.6.3* Corridor Doors.</b></p> <p><b>18.3.6.3.1*</b> Doors protecting corridor openings shall be constructed to resist the passage of smoke, and the following also shall apply:</p> <p>(1) Compliance with NFPA80, <i>Standard for Fire Doors and Other Opening Protectives</i>, shall not be required.</p> <p>(2) A clearance between the bottom of the door and the floor covering not exceeding 1 in. (25 mm) shall be permitted for corridor doors.</p> <p><del>(3) Doors shall be provided with positive latching hardware unless permitted by 18.3.6.3.6 through 18.3.6.3.7</del></p> <p>(3) Doors to toilet rooms, bathrooms, shower rooms, sink closets, and similar auxiliary spaces that do not contain flammable or combustible materials shall not be required to be constructed to resist the passage of smoke.</p> <p><b>18.3.6.3.2 Reserved.</b></p> <p><b>18.3.6.3.3 Reserved.</b></p> <p><b>18.3.6.3.4 Reserved.</b></p> <p><b>18.3.6.3.5</b> Doors shall be self-latching and provided with positive latching hardware, <u>unless permitted by 18.3.6.3.6 or 18.3.6.3.7</u></p> <p><b>18.3.6.3.6</b> Doors to toilet rooms, bathrooms, shower rooms, sink closets, and similar auxiliary spaces that do not contain flammable or combustible materials shall not be required to meet the latching requirements of 18.3.6.3.5.</p> <p><b>18.3.6.3.7</b> Powered doors that comply with the requirements of 7.2.1.9 shall not be required to meet the latching requirements of 18.3.6.3.5, provided that both of the following criteria are met:</p> <p>(1) The door is equipped with a means for keeping the door closed that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.</p> <p>(2) The device used is capable of keeping the door fully closed if a force of 5 lbf (22 N) is applied at the latch edge of a swinging door and applied in any direction to a sliding or folding door, whether or not power is applied.</p> <p><b>18.3.6.3.8</b> Corridor doors utilizing an inactive leaf shall have automatic flush bolts on the inactive leaf to provide positive latching.</p> <p><b>18.3.6.3.9 Roller Latches.</b></p> <p><b>18.3.6.3.9.1</b> Roller latches shall be prohibited. <del>except as permitted by 18.3.6.3.9.2</del></p> <p><del><b>18.3.6.3.9.2</b> Roller latches shall be permitted for acute psychiatric settings where patient special clinical needs require specialized protective measures for their safety, provided that the roller latches are capable of keeping the door fully closed if a force of 1bf (22 N) is applied at the latch edge of the door.</del></p> <p><b>18.3.6.3.10*</b> Doors shall not be held open by devices other than those that release when the door is pushed or pulled.</p> <p><b>18.3.6.3.11</b> Door-closing devices shall not be required on doors in corridor wall openings other than those serving required exits, smoke barriers, or enclosures of vertical openings and hazardous areas.</p> <p><b>18.3.6.3.12*</b> Nonrated, factory- or field-applied protective plates, unlimited in height, shall be permitted.</p> <p><b>18.3.6.3.13</b> Dutch doors shall be permitted where they conform to 18.3.6.3 and meet all of the following criteria:</p> <p>(1) Both the upper leaf and lower leaf are equipped with a latching device.</p> <p>(2) The meeting edges of the upper and lower leaves are equipped with an astragal, a rabbet, or a bevel.</p> <p>(3) Where protecting openings in enclosures around hazardous areas, the doors comply with NFPA80, <i>Standard for Fire Doors and Other Opening Protectives</i>.</p>	<p><b>19.3.6.3* Corridor Doors.</b></p> <p><b>19.3.6.3.1*</b> Doors protecting corridor openings in other than required enclosures of vertical openings, exits, or hazardous areas shall be doors constructed to resist the passage of smoke and shall be constructed of materials such as the following:</p> <p>(1) 1¼ in. (44 mm) thick, solid-bonded core wood</p> <p>(2) Material that resists fire for a minimum of 20 minutes</p> <p><b>19.3.6.3.2</b> The requirements of 19.3.6.3.1 shall not apply where otherwise permitted by either of the following:</p> <p>(1) Doors to toilet rooms, bathrooms, shower rooms, sink closets, and similar auxiliary spaces that do not contain flammable or combustible materials shall not be required to comply with 19.3.6.3.1.</p> <p>(2) In smoke compartments protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 19.3.5.7, the door construction materials requirements of 19.3.6.3.1 shall not be mandatory, but the doors shall be constructed to resist the passage of smoke.</p> <p><b>19.3.6.3.3</b> Compliance with NFPA 80, <i>Standard for Fire Doors and Other Opening Protectives</i>, shall not be required.</p> <p><b>19.3.6.3.4</b> A clearance between the bottom of the door and the floor covering not exceeding 1 in. (25 mm) shall be permitted for corridor doors.</p> <p><b>19.3.6.3.5*</b> Doors shall be provided with a means for keeping the door closed that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction, and the following requirements also shall apply:</p> <p>(1) The device used shall be capable of keeping the door fully closed if a force of 5 lbf (22 N) is applied at the latch edge of the door.</p> <p>(2) Roller latches shall be prohibited on corridor doors. <del>in buildings not fully protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with 19.3.5.7.</del></p> <p><b>19.3.6.3.6</b> The requirements of 19.3.6.3.5 shall not apply where otherwise permitted by either of the following:</p> <p>(1) Doors to toilet rooms, bathrooms, shower rooms, sink closets, and similar auxiliary spaces that do not contain flammable or combustible materials shall not be required to comply with 19.3.6.3.5.</p> <p><del>(2) Existing roller latches demonstrated to keep the door closed against a force of 5 lbf (22N) shall be permitted to be kept in service.</del></p> <p><b>19.3.6.3.7</b> Powered doors that comply with the requirements of 7.2.1.9 shall be considered as complying with the requirements of 19.3.6.3.5, provided that both of the following criteria are met:</p> <p>(1) The door is equipped with a means for keeping the door closed that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.</p> <p>(2) The device used is capable of keeping the door fully closed if a force of 5 lbf (22 N) is applied at the latch edge of a swinging door and applied in any direction to a sliding or folding door, whether or not power is applied.</p>