



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE  
PO BOX 2675  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105-2675

ADULT RESIDENTIAL LICENSING

MAR - 6 2012

PHONE: (717) 783-3670  
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Ms. Anne Denny, Administrator  
Concordia Lutheran Health and Human Care Lund Building  
Concordia Lutheran Health and Human Care  
134 Marwood Road  
Cabot, Pennsylvania 16023

RE: Concordia Lutheran Ministries – Oertel Building  
Concordia Lutheran Health and Human Care –  
Lund Building

Dear Ms. Denny:

This letter hereby rescinds the waiver issued by the Department on December 5, 2008. After re-examination, the Department has determined that a waiver of 55 Pa.Code Chapter 2600.121(b) (relating to unobstructed egress) is not needed. According to 55 Pa.Code § 2600.121(b), doors used for egress routes from rooms and from the building may not be equipped with key-locking devices, electronic card operated systems or other devices which prevent immediate egress of residents from the building, unless the home has written approval or a variance from the Department of Labor and Industry, the Department of Health or the appropriate local building authority.

According to the Department's Regulatory Compliance Guide dated January 1, 2012, A delayed locking device is one that opens after a time-delay of any length. The most common devices of this type are those that require pressure on a "panic bar" for 15-20 seconds. Use of these doors is permitted if:

1. There is written approval from the Department of Labor and Industry, Department of Health or appropriate local building authority permitting the use of the system (to ensure compliance with § 2600.18 and § 2600.121(b).
2. There is a statement specific to the home from the manufacturer, lock service company or an architect who has inspected the lock verifying that the electronic or magnetic locking system will shut down and that all doors will open easily and immediately when there is a signal from an activated fire

alarm system, heat or smoke detector, and/or power failure to the home (to ensure compliance with § 2600.132(d).

3. The doors are not used in a home or portion of a home that provides specialized care and services for residents with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia that is not licensed as a secured dementia care unit.

The homes have submitted the following documentation to the Department:

1. Written approval from the Department of Health documenting that the Special Locking Arrangement (SLA) was constructed according to the approved construction plans and occupation of the unit for Life Safety Code purposes is granted.
2. A letter from the Guardian Protection Services stating that the magnetic door locks and keypads were engineered to secure the doors until the correct code is entered, the fire alarm is activated or the power fails. The letter states that following one of these events, the door will unlock facilitating the operation of the existing panic hardware.
3. Concordia Lutheran Ministries – Oertel Building and Concordia Lutheran Health and Human Care – Lund Building are not licensed secure dementia care units.

Therefore, the Department of Public Welfare has determined that a waiver of § 2600.121(b) is not needed. However, the homes are reminded that each home is expected to maintain compliance with 55 Pa.Code § 2600.

If you have any questions regarding the waiver process, please contact Ms. Tara Pride, Policy Director, at telephone number (717) 783-3670.

Sincerely,



Ronald Melusky  
Director