

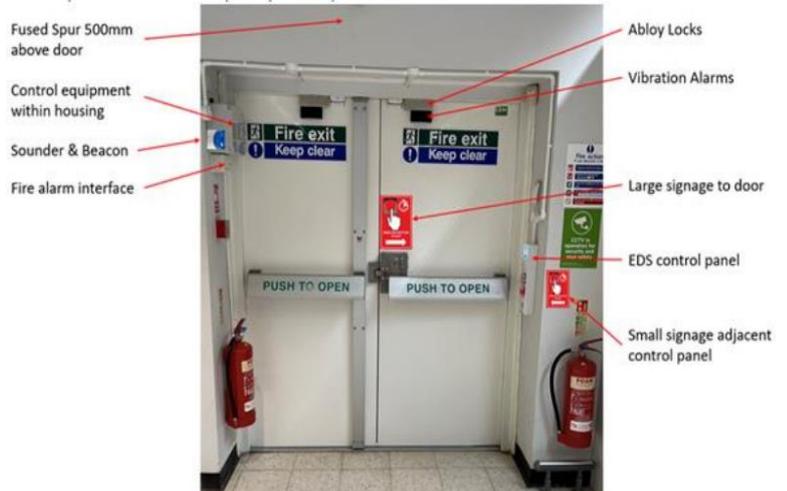


DELAYED EGRESS FIRE EXITS

Dear members,

Over the last few months, ASDA have been installing the new 'Delayed Egress' fire exits in ASDA stores across the country.

These doors have a 15 second delay in place for exits off of the shop floor. This was put in place to reduce theft by members of the public who would escape through fire doors.



Regrettably, the way the doors work in the event of a fire alarm and evacuation has not been correctly briefed to ASDA colleagues throughout the business. This has led to confusion and, in some cases, panic that the doors do not open in the event of a fire. GMB London Region has clarified the exact nature of the system so that we can brief members.

In stores with 2-stage alarms, in the event of a trigger such as fire call points, heat sensors, or smoke sensors being activated, the system will go into 'Investigation Mode', notifying the duty managers via the fire pagers. This gives management 3 minutes to investigate the location of the activation. The fire exits will not unlock at this point, and would still require the 15 second timer button to be pressed, resulting with the door being released.

If a further trigger is activated, during the investigation period, this will put the system into evacuation mode, sounding the alarm and immediately unlocking all doors. This is referred to as "Double Knock", and is a legally accepted way of reducing theft in retail environments. GMB is asking that ASDA ensures all colleagues are fully briefed and trained on how the new doors work so that we can prevent further confusion and panic in the future.

If you are impacted by this issue and would like support or advice, please contact our office directly at 01603 626492, or visit our GMB Members' Support Centre at www.gmb-asda.com/support

GMB ASDA London Region

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