

ANSI/BHMA A156.3-2001 American National Standard for Exit Devices

Standard ANSI/BHMA A156.3-2001 establishes requirements for exit devices and trim, automatic and self-latching flush bolts, removable mullions, coordinators, and carry-open bars. It includes definitions, general information and testing (procedures and equipment). Functions and types of exit devices are numbered and described, and illustrations are provided (for types only). For example, “Function 4.1” declares: In all functions, latch bolts and deadbolts, or deadbolts or latch bolts alone are released by depressing the actuating bar. Labeled Fire Exit Hardware for labeled fire doors shall not be provided with a lock down feature.

Tests and required results in this standard include:

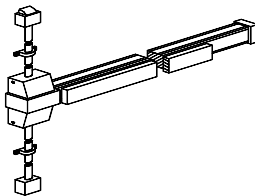
- Inside Operational
- Flush Bolt
- Outside Operational
- Strength
- Material Evaluation

Product grades are defined by progressive performance benchmarks in the given tests, with Grade 1 being the highest level of performance. For example, in the “outside pull test,” a Grade 1 exit device must be able to withstand 400 lbf, as compared to a Grade 3, which is required to withstand 300lbf. The last digit of the product number identifies the grade of a BHMA product.

The following are partial descriptions of test values. See the complete standard for additional tests:

TEST	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Cycle	500,000	250,000	100,000
Exit	15 lbf max. (67 N)	15 lbf max. (67 N)	15 lbf max. (67 N)
Outside Pull	400 lbf min. (1780 N)	400 lbf min. (1780 N)	300 lbf min. (1335 N)
Inside Pull (Grades 1 & 2)	400 lbf min. (1780 N)	400 lbf min. (1780 N)	
Push (Grades 1 & 2)	400 lbf min. (1780 N)	400 lbf min. (1780 N)	
Force to Latch Door	4.5 lbf (20 N) Maximum	4.5 lbf (20 N) Maximum	4.5 lbf (20 N) Maximum

Sample Illustration:



Surface Vertical Rod Device—Push Pad

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Note: This document is not to be used as a substitute for the standard. Users should refer to the entire standard for complete requirements and details. For further information go to www.buildershardware.com.