

## PANIC BARS FOR DOUBLE DOORS

### Introduction:

Designated fire escapes in buildings in South Africa which have a 'designed occupancy of 25 or more persons' are usually required to have hinged, **outward-opening doors** as fire escapes or emergency exits, through which 'escape initiated by body-weight' can take place in an emergency. These doors must open easily and freely from inside, and should self-close after escape to prevent the ingress of oxygen, (which would fan a fire, and disperse the resultant smoke into fire escape areas). A dual-action fire-rated overhead surface mounted door closer such as **DORMA TS 73** or **TS 83** should be fitted to ensure proper closing.

### Securing the Fixed (second-opening) Leaf:

When used on an outward opening door, the **panic bolt with vertical rods**, illustrated at left, has the advantage of locking the door at both top and bottom, against entry from outside, whilst always allowing free escape. In addition, the modern self-latching design allows this fixed door-leaf to lock automatically whenever it closes. It also provides a firm anchor for the moving (first-opening) leaf to lock against.



Typical panic touch-bar with vertical locking rods suitable for single doors, or for the fixed leaf of double doors



Detex V40 alarmed panic device also available monitored



Typical touch-bar latching panic device



DETEX ECL-600 alarmed panic device for narrower doors in smaller occupancies.

### Securing the Moving (first-opening) Leaf

There is a wide choice of devices for the moving leaf, three of which are illustrated at right - above. These latching panic devices must be able to close and lock themselves automatically to prevent the ingress of oxygen.

**Each of the above devices can also be used on their own - on any single, outward-opening fire or emergency exit door.**

**THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS OFFERED ONLY AS A ROUGH GUIDE** to identifying emergency exit hardware. It is always wise to consult an expert or your local fire authority, particularly in high risk areas, or where any flammable or combustible substances are stored or processed.