ABS - AMERICAN BUILDING SUPPLY, INC.

Tech Tips

Electrified Panic Innovations

With the growth of access control, electrified panic devices have become very commonplace. The majority of electrified panics require a special power supply to produce an in-rush of power to retract the panic's locking mechanism, Von Duprin is one of the most common electrified panics requires a 16amp in-rush and you are limited to 12 gauge wire with a maximum length of 50'. The Von Duprin PS873 produces the required 16-amp in-rush and is commonly sold.

One big draw back with most power supplies for electrified panics is how they need to be wired into an access system. Typically you wire one leg of the power supply through the relay in your access system. The problem is that the in-rush runs through the access system's relay eventually damaging it. Most access system's relays are not designed to handle these in-rushes.

To avoid this problem you need to purchase a 20amp relay. You would wire it so the access system trips the 20amp relay, which directs the power to the exit device. If you use a PS873x2 power supply it has relays built in to the power supply and can power two devices. You are still limited to 50' and need 12 gauge wire. Most installers use the PS873x2 ($739 list as of 2/1/2009) instead of the PS873 ($593 list as of 2/1/2009) for the convenience of the pre-mounted relays.

Technology now offers alternatives. Command Access offers a PM200 module, which replaces the potted module in the bar. It simply plugs right in. Think of it as a capacitor which stores the required in-rush in the bar itself. Since the in-rush is stored in the bar you do not need a special power supply to create it. This means almost any 24VDC 1.5A lets you go 500' with 18/2 wires. The PM200 discharges and recharges in 500ms. There is a version available for Adams Rite devices. Command Access offers an EL kit (VLPKIT $400 list as of 2/1/2009) using the PM200 to convert existing mechanical devices.

Power supplies have come a long way in the last few years. Command Access offers solid-state power supplies that provide the required 16amp in-rush. These power supplies use an input to signal the unit to send the power to the exit device. This replaces the required relays and they are standard in their PS1 ($225 list as of 2/1/2009) designed for one door and the PS2 ($325 list as of 2/1/2009) designed for two doors. These cost effective power supplies can replace the PS873 and they work with the VLPKIT.