CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for releasing a lock for a sliding door panel comprising:

a release assembly comprising first and second release actuators configured and positioned to unlock the sliding door panel from left and right sides of the sliding door panel, respectively.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first release actuator comprises a first handle and a first vertical linkage operably attached to the first handle, and the second release actuator comprises a second a handle and a second vertical linkage operably attached to the second handle.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the first vertical linkage is operably attached to the first handle with a first handle cam and the second vertical linkage is operably attached to the second handle with a second handle cam .

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the release assembly is configured to be operated independently from the left side or the right side of the panel.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the release assembly comprises a first switch adjacent to the first side of the sliding door panel and a second switch adjacent to the second side of the sliding door panel and a solenoid operable connected to the first and second switches and further configured to unlock a lock.

6. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a horizontal linkage operably attached to the first and second linkages.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the first vertical linkage is operably attached to the horizontal linkage with a first linkage cam, and the second vertical linkage is operably attached to the horizontal linkage with a second linkage cam.

8. A system comprising:

a sliding door panel;

a lock having a release mechanism, the lock configured to lock the sliding door panel; and

a release assembly comprising first and second release actuators, the first and second release actuators configured and positioned to unlock the lock from left and right sides of the sliding door panel, respectively.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the system comprises a plurality of sliding door panels.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein each of the sliding door panels is configured with a release mechanism.

11. The system of claim 8, wherein the first release actuator comprises a first handle and a first vertical linkage operably attached to the first handle, and the second release actuator comprises a second a handle and a second vertical linkage operably attached to the second handle..

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the first vertical linkage is operably attached to the first handle with a first handle cam and the second vertical linkage is operably attached to the second handle with a second handle cam.

13. The system of claim 8, wherein the release assembly is configured to be operated independently from the left side and the right side of the sliding door panel.

14. The system of claim 8, further comprising at least one sensor configured to determine if the panel is unlocked.

15. The system of claim 8, further comprising a sensor to determine if the panel is in an open position.

16. The system of claim 8, wherein the release assembly comprises a first switch adjacent to the left side of the panel and a second switch adjacent to the right side of the panel and a solenoid operable connected to the first and second switches and further configured to unlock the lock.

17. The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising a horizontal linkage operably attached to the first and second linkages.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the first vertical linkage is operably attached to the horizontal linkage with a first linkage cam and the second vertical linkage is operably attached to the horizontal linkage with a second linkage cam.

19. A door panel system comprising:

a slidable panel movable between closed and open positions, the panel comprising a frame with first and second stiles positioned on opposite sides of the panel;

a drive motor arranged to move the panel between the open and closed positions;

a lock arranged to lock the panel in the closed position;

and a release assembly configured to unlock the lock, the release assembly comprising a first manually engageable release actuator on the first stile and a second manually engageable release actuator on the second stile.

CLAIMS

1. A system comprising:

a sliding door panel having a first and second side comprising a frame with first and second stiles, the first and second stiles being disposed along opposing vertical edges of the door panel;

a lock having a release mechanism, the lock configured to lock the sliding door panel; and

a release assembly comprising first and second release actuators, the first and second release actuators operatively connected to the lock to unlock the lock from the first and second stiles of the sliding door panel, respectively,

wherein both the first and second release actuators are positioned on either the first or second side of the door panel, and wherein the first release actuator is on the first stile and the second release actuator is on the second stile.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the system comprises a plurality of sliding door panels.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein each of the sliding door panels is configured with a release mechanism.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the first release actuator comprises a first handle and a first vertical linkage operably attached to the first handle, and the second release actuator comprises a second a handle and a second vertical linkage operably attached to the second handle.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the first vertical linkage is operably attached to the first handle with a first handle cam and the second vertical linkage is operably attached to the second handle with a second handle cam.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the release assembly is configured to be operated independently from the first and second stiles of the sliding door panel.

7. The system of claim 1, further comprising at least one sensor configured to determine if the panel is unlocked.

8. The system of claim 1, further comprising a sensor to determine if the panel is in an open position.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the release assembly comprises a first switch adjacent to the first stile of the panel and a second switch adjacent to the second stile of the panel and a

solenoid operable connected to the first and second switches and further configured to unlock the lock.

10. The apparatus of claim 4 further comprising a horizontal linkage operably attached to the first and second linkages.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the first vertical linkage is operably attached to the horizontal linkage with a first linkage cam and the second vertical linkage is operably attached to the horizontal linkage with a second linkage cam.

12. A door panel system comprising:

a slidable panel movable between closed and open positions, the panel comprising a frame with first and second stiles the first and second stiles being disposed along opposing vertical edges of the panel;

a drive motor arranged to move the panel between the open and closed positions; a lock arranged to lock the panel in the closed position; and

a release assembly configured to unlock the lock, the release assembly comprising a first manually engageable release actuator on the first stile and a second manually engageable release actuator on the second stile,

wherein the first and second manually engageable release actuators are positioned on the same side of the panel.