

Fire Doors - How to specify

Ⓢ How to specify

Fire doors are intrinsic to a building's fire and safety strategy. They can provide an escape route in the event of an emergency and separate zones to help keep a fire contained, buying valuable time for building occupants to evacuate. Yet every year, people lose their lives due to fire doors being incorrectly specified, installed and maintained.

A faulty fire door can result in legal action, a prison sentence and/or a heavy financial penalty. A single mistake during the specification or installation process is all it takes to reduce the door's efficiency and put lives at risk. However, the vast array of options from selecting the right frame to specifying smoke seals and other components can make it difficult to get it right.

Ⓢ What do you need to know when specifying a fire door?

1. Ensure that your chosen door has been tested in the exact specification that is being supplied.

Insist on seeing test evidence and make sure you understand it. Doors must be tested to BS 476 Part 22 or BS EN 1634. It is your responsibility to check that the door being installed is compliant - ignorance is not an adequate defence in court.

2. Ensure all components that make up the door set have been tested.

It is vital to choose the right hinges, locks, seals etc. for the job and to make sure they are CE marked and compatible with other products being specified. For example, incorrect hinges may cause a door to drop over time and thereby fail to provide the required protection from fire. If toplights or sidelights are required, ask for evidence that they have been tested as a complete doorset.

3. Ensure the door is manufactured exactly to the standard as tested.

Don't compromise on other requirements. Make sure that the door being offered has an independent smoke test and that it fully complies with Secured by Design standards, including the cut through test for a thumb turn.

Don't forget: Third party certified fire doors must have an identification label fixed to the door detailing its unique reference number to ensure full traceability.



Ⓢ What are the key elements in a specification?

An ideal specification will set out requirements for:

- An FD30s (fire and smoke tested for up to 30 minutes) door set with third party certification for fire compliance
- A design scope that fully captures the client's requirements and the door features that they have requested
- A PAS023/24 tested door set that includes the cut through test for thumbturn cylinders, again with independent certification and within the Secured by Design approved scope

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Ⓢ Why specify a door with third party certification?

Third party certification ensures that the door being offered is exactly as specified and within the approved design scope. It also means that independent experts have monitored all aspects of its manufacture. Each door is individually registered and an audit trail is available for the client and any independent fire inspector.

In this instance, the client takes the least risk as the fire door has been underwritten by the third party certification body. Without third party certification, you will need to make an assessment and accept the risk that what is being offered is suitable and exactly as tested.

Ⓢ Why choose a Fire Doors Plus fire door?

Fire Doors Plus, a leading composite door supplier, supply fire door range with independent third party certification that assures performance, quality and reliability. All our doors are FD30s compliant and fully approved by CERTIFIRE, providing installers and building owners with complete peace of mind.

Every door in the range is manufactured to a high level of security and complies with PAS023/024 security accreditation, as well as Secured by Design approval. Furthermore, Fire Doors Plus unique door construction allows for a wide choice of apertures, with 15 different door styles across 11 colours to provide a tailor-made composite door solution. For more information, visit www.firedoorsplusltd.co.uk

Ⓢ Quick checklist: specification

- Has the door been tested in the exact specification that is being supplied? Has it been third-party certificated to BS 476 Part 22 or BS EN 1634?
- Have correct and compatible components been specified? Are they CE marked and have they been tested to approved standards?
- Has the door been manufactured exactly to the standard as tested? Does it have an independent smoke test? Does it fully comply with Secured by Design standards?
- Have the correct doorframes been specified?
- Does the certificate match the door? Make sure you have the correct certification for the door's intended use



Source:

Fire Doors, So What? Article featured on Fire Door Safety Week website 2014;

<http://firedoorsdirect.co.uk/3297-fire-doors-8-things-you-might-not-know/>

<http://www.flat-living.co.uk/advice/1100-fire-doors-so-what->

Fact Sheet



Contact Details



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