

Special Interest Articles:

Highlights on
NFPA-80- 2007
Edition

Meet our
Association
President

How to join our
Association

Visit our web page at www.doorinspectors.org

WELCOME

Welcome to the first newsletter from our newly formed Association- Association of Door Assembly Inspectors. This association was formed after NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) passed the NFPA 80-2007 edition. In that edition a new regulation was created that called for the annual inspection of fire door assemblies. As the 2007 edition of NFPA 80 is adopted by the different states there is much confusion as to who does the inspections, who is qualified to do the inspections, and the requirements for the reporting of inspections, etc. Our goal is to help answer those questions.

NFPA-80 2007 Edition

In simple terms the 2007 edition of NFPA calls for the annual inspection of fire door assemblies. Fire doors play an important role in preventing fires from spreading in that they help to control fires and keep fires from spreading. If fire doors are not closed and latched properly, fires can spread very rapidly and cause incredible loss of life and property. What NFPA found was that during the construction of a new building or during renovations, inspections are done to make sure a

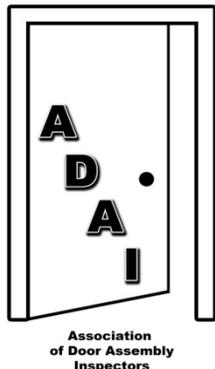
building is up to the proper codes. There are many inspections but part of those inspections are to make sure fire doors close and latch and are correct. If everything is OK Permits of Occupancies are issued and the building soon is occupied and up and running. What NFPA found that was after a couple of years there was no regulation to go back and inspect these fire doors. In looking at older buildings they found many deficiencies that if

had been on new buildings would have caused the AHJ (Authority Having

Jurisdiction) to have failed the building and withhold their permit to occupy. They reasoned that if they were going to make sure buildings were safe when they are being built, why not make sure buildings are safe after they are occupied. Hardware and doors get abused and if after the building has been occupied for some time,

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If the hardware or doors have changed condition or been modified and no longer serve the purpose of containing a fire, then why not let the building owner know. We have all seen fire doors that have been modified, usually by some unsuspecting individual who knows very little about codes and the role of fire doors. We have seen kick down holders, modified hardware that now is dogged open, hold open hooks and the ever present foot wedge. All will prevent fire doors from doing what they were intended to do- stay closed and latched and control a fire. NFPA realized the problem and thus created the annual inspection to help resolve these problems. Starting with the 2007 edition these inspections are required to be done. At this

time not all states have adopted the 2007 edition of NFPA 80. Although 2007 is four years ago some states are still using versions from several years before that. Please check our web pages to see the list of states that have adopted the 2007 edition. This list is being updated frequently as states adopt newer versions of building codes. As more and more states adopt the 2007 edition the annual inspection of fire door assemblies will continue to create more and more questions.

INSPECTION CRITERIA

No holes or breaks in door or frame

Glazing and glass kit/ glass beads are intact and securely fastened

Door, frame, and hardware are in proper working order

No missing or broken parts

Door clearances are within allowable limits

Door closers / spring hinges are operational and door is self closing

Coordinator ensures that door leaves close in proper sequence (pairs only)

Opening is not equipped with auxiliary hardware items which interfere with operation

No field modifications have been performed that void the label



This is not good

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



In order for a fire door to work properly it has to be self closing and self latching.



It is with great pleasure that I write to you in our First Newsletter and look forward to contributing in many issues to come.

Our Association is young, as we were formed a little over a year ago, but we are dedicated to working in our industry by promoting public safety through education and raising the awareness of local Authorities Having Jurisdiction, building officials, architects and general contractors regarding fire door and egress safety requirements. We encourage effective communication between inspectors and other individuals involved in life safety and advocate guidance for code compliance as it relates to fire door and egress assemblies.

From our conception, it was determined that the newly certified Inspectors needed some representation, a networking avenue to stay informed and share valuable market feedback, and have an opportunity to effect our local geographic areas to promote NFPA 80 and the enforcement of the annual inspections.

In the past year we organized all the NE area inspectors and filed all the necessary paperwork to become "Association of Door Assembly Inspectors, Inc". We then proceeded to file for and receive our 501(C) status. We established our Board of Directors which consists of Inspectors, DHI representative and Door Security & Safety Foundation representative.

We have set-up a website, developed a slide show presentation explaining the new NFPA 80, 2007 annual inspection requirement while offering a simple solution to both the building owner, as well as, the AHJ through utilizing the services of "certified inspectors". Board members have met with Fire Officials, large facility owners and Insurance Companies over the past 8-12 months diligently spreading the message about Annual Inspections with the help of certified inspectors.

Our goal is to be a driving force in the requiring of annual inspection reports.
Welcome to all new members.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Salvo-Conlon
Association of Door Assembly Inspector's, Inc, President

Who is responsible for making sure the inspections are performed

It is the responsibility of building owners and property managers to initiate the inspection and produce written records of the inspections for the code officials to review. It is in no way the responsibility of the code officials to do the inspections, they are just looking to check the paperwork. It is the same when they check the paperwork for the elevator inspection or check the paperwork and tags on the fire extinguishers



Pair of fire doors that successfully contained a fire

Who will perform the inspections

NFPA 80- 2007 Edition requires functional testing and inspections by **“individuals with knowledge and understanding of the operating components of the applicable door type.”** The AHJ alone determines what he will allow as “knowledgeable”. Will he allow a maintenance man to do the inspections? A locksmith? A carpenter at a large institution who works on doors? Only the AHJ can make that decision but the best option would be an individual who had some sort of training or credential that he could show the AHJ to prove he was capable of doing the inspections .

Order NFPA 80-2010

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5.2* Inspections.

5.2.1* Fire door assemblies shall be inspected and tested not less than annually, and a written record of the inspection shall be signed and kept for inspection by the AHJ.

5.2.2* Performance-Based Option.

5.2.2.1 As an alternate means of compliance with 5.2.1, subject to the AHJ, fire door assemblies shall be permitted to be inspected, tested, and maintained under a written performance based program. ***Continued on next page***

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5.2.2.2 Goals established under a performance-based program shall provide assurance that the fire door assembly will perform its intended function when exposed to fire conditions.

5.2.2.3 Technical justification for inspection, testing, and maintenance intervals shall be documented.

5.2.2.4 The performance-based option shall include historical data acceptable to the AHJ.

5.2.3 Functional Testing.

5.2.3.1 Functional testing of fire door and window assemblies shall be performed by individuals with knowledge and understanding of the operating components of the type of door being subject to testing.

5.2.3.2 Before testing, a visual inspection shall be performed to identify any damaged or missing parts that can create a hazard during testing or affect operation or resetting.

5.2.4 Swinging Doors with Builders Hardware or Fire Door Hardware.

5.2.4.1 Fire door assemblies shall be visually inspected from both sides to assess the overall condition of door assembly.

5.2.4.2 As a minimum, the following items shall be verified:

- (1) No open holes or breaks exist in surfaces of either the door or frame.
 - (2) Glazing, vision light frames, and glazing beads are intact and securely fastened in place, if so equipped.
 - (3) The door, frame, hinges, hardware, and noncombustible threshold are secured, aligned, and in working order with no visible signs of damage.
 - (4) No parts are missing or broken.
 - (5) Door clearances at the door edge to the frame, on the pull side of the door, do not exceed clearances listed in 4.8.4 and 6.3.1.
 - (6) The self-closing device is operational, that is, the active door completely closes when operated from the full open position.
 - (7) If a coordinator is installed, the inactive leaf closes before active leaf.
 - (8) Latching hardware operates and secures the door when it is in the closed position.
 - (9) Auxiliary hardware items that interfere or prohibit operation are not installed on the door or frame.
 - (10) No field modifications to the door assembly have been performed that void the label.
 - (11) Gasketing and edge seals, where required, are inspected to verify their presence and integrity.
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WWW.DOORINSPECTORS.ORG

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www.NFPA.org



HOW TO JOIN OUR ASSOCIATIONS

Joining our Association requires selection of the level of membership desired, paying the appropriate fee and completing the membership application which can be found on our website www.doorinspectors.org

The three levels of membership:

Inspector Members:

An individual who has successfully completed the Door Assembly Inspection course offered by the Door and Hardware Institute (DHI).

These members have the right to vote on all Association matters, hold office and have access to all ADAI instructional material.

Apprentice Members:

An individual who is currently enrolled in or have successfully completed the DHI Apprentice Course or who are otherwise actively engaged in an apprenticeship program recognized by ADAI.

These members have access to all ADAI General meetings and will have direct access to all that is happening through and with ADAI.

Associate Members:

Individuals who are actively engaged in the architectural openings industry.

These members have access to information regarding our Association's actions.

Fee Schedule for levels of membership:

Inspector Member: \$200.00 annual fee

Apprentice Member: \$100.00 annual fee

Associate member: \$50.00 annual fee