

Fire Doors – Self-Inspection Program

Fire doors are designed to close automatically and prevent fire spread from one space to another through an open doorway. A fire door inspection program will help to maintain the integrity of fire doors by identifying and expediting repairs.

While NFPA 80, Standard for Fire Doors and Other Opening Protectives, requires an annual inspection of fire doors and similar protective closures, most loss control professionals recommend weekly and monthly inspections for fire doors.

Weekly Inspection

The weekly inspection is a visual check of the door for obstructions and damage. Damage can occur to pulleys, tracks, counterweights, door catches, door guides, the door itself, and the fusible links. At a minimum, on a weekly basis, all fire doors should be inspected to ensure that:

- No holes or penetrations exist in the door or doorframe.
- Automatic attachments and closing devices are properly installed and are free of physical damage.
- No obstructions are present that would prevent closing, such as packing material, product storage, and door wedges.
- No combustible materials are stored near the door that could produce a flash fire (since such a fire could spread through the opening before automatically tripping the door).
- Guides and pulleys are free of damage and cables do not show signs of fraying.
- Fusible links of automatic closing mechanisms are free of paint and other foreign materials.

Monthly Inspections

A monthly inspection should include:

- Disconnecting fusible links to verify that doors close completely.
- Raising counterweights of automatic sliding and counterbalanced doors to ensure that they close properly.
- Verifying that the detection system supervisory signals are functional
- Operating all hardware, including latches, guides, and thresholds, for proper function.
- Fusible links of automatic closing mechanisms are free of paint and other foreign materials.

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Additional Considerations

In addition to routine inspection, measures should be in place to help prevent mechanical damage or insure the operation of fire doors. These include:

- Installing guard posts in front of all guides or tracks for rolling steel and vertical sliding fire doors.
- Installing guard rails in front of the entire length of horizontal sliding fire doors (in the open position) to prevent storage from being placed against them.
- Installing horizontal guards in front of the hood of a rolling steel door.
- Locating detectors (such as fusible links) that initiate operation of door closures where they will be promptly affected by heat.

The loss prevention information and advice presented in this brochure are intended only to advise our insureds and their managers of a variety of methods and strategies based on generally accepted safe practices, for controlling potentially loss producing situations commonly occurring in business premises and/or operations. They are not intended to warrant that all potential hazards or conditions have been evaluated or can be controlled. They are not intended as an offer to write insurance coverage for such conditions or exposures, or to simply that Great American Insurance Company will write such coverage. The liability of Great American Insurance Company is limited to the specific terms, limits and conditions of the insurance policies issued.
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