Our mission is to promote secure and safe openings that enhance life safety, through outreach efforts that include awareness and education within the building design, code authority, and facility management communities.
Presents:

Swinging Fire Door Assemblies with Builders Hardware

Design, Installation, Inspection, and Maintenance
Paul Baillargeon, AHC, FDAI

A 40 year veteran in the Door Frame and Hardware Industry, Mr. Baillargeon is a certified Architectural Hardware Consultant and a Fire Door Assembly Inspector. He is also a Field Inspector for Intertek Testing Services. Mr. Baillargeon is an instructor in the DHI Education Program and member of DHI Education Council. Mr. Baillargeon is also a Technical Consultant to the Door Security & Safety Foundation.
Design

• Swinging Fire Door Assemblies with Builders Hardware
  – Covered in Chapter 6 in NFPA 80
  – Component Based Systems
Design

- Swinging Fire Door Assemblies with Builders Hardware are Comprised of:
  - Labeled door frame
  - Labeled door(s)
  - Labeled or Listed Door Hardware Products
    - Hinges
    - Door Bolts
    - Locks and Latches
    - Door Closers
    - Etc.
Design

- Labeled Door Frames
  - Embossed Labels
  - Physical Labels
- Mylar
- Metal
Design

• Labeled Doors
  – Physical Labels
    • Mylar
    • Metal
  – States Hardware Requirements
    • Latch Throw
    • Fire Exit Hardware
    • S-Label for Smoke Door Assemblies
  – States Fire-Protection Rating in Hours or Minutes
Design

• Labeled and Listed Hardware Components
  – Marked with Emblems and Symbols
    • F, f, Ff
    • UL
  – Embossed, Stamped, or Applied
Design

• Glass and Glazing
  – 1/4-inch Clear Wire Glass
  – Fire Resistance Rated Glazing
  – Fire Protection Rated Glazing
Design

• Door Frame and Door Labels
  – Applied at Factory or Authorized Shop
    BEFORE Door Hardware is Installed

• Door Hardware Labels
  – Marked During Manufacturing
  – Some Products (e.g., Hinges) are only Listed
Design

• NFPA 80 Allows Door Frames, Doors, and Hardware to be Products of Different Manufacturers

• NFPA 80 Allows Doors Frames, Doors, and Hardware to be Labeled and Listed by Different Testing Labs
Design

- Fire Door Ratings
  - 1/3-hour (20 minutes)
  - 1/2-hour (30 minutes)
  - 3/4-hour (45 minutes)
  - 1-hour (60 minutes)
  - 1-1/2 hour (90 minutes)
  - 3 hour (180 minutes)
Design

• **Swinging Doors Rated Less than Walls**
  – 4-hour walls requires 3-hour door assemblies
  – 2-hour walls requires 1-1/2 hour door assemblies
  – 1-hour walls requires 3/4-hour door assemblies

• Exception: 1/3-hour door assemblies in some occupancies
Installation

• Component-Based Assemblies
  – Frame, Door, and Hardware Components
  – Virtually Infinite Combinations of Components
  – Each Component is Required to be Labeled or Listed

✓ *Typically, the Label on the Door Establishes the Duration of Fire Protection Rating for the Assembly*
Installation

- Swinging Fire Doors with Fire Door Hardware
- Horizontally Sliding Fire Doors
- Vertically Sliding Fire Doors
- Rolling Steel Fire Doors
- Access Fire Doors
- More…

✓ The Label on These Types of Fire Doors Cover the Entire Assembly
Installation

- Assemblies Commonly Consist of:
  - Hollow Metal Doors and Frames
  - Hollow Metal Frames and Wood Doors*
  - Pressed Steel Frames and Wood Doors*
  - Aluminum Frames and Wood Doors*
  - Aluminum Frames and Flush Aluminum Doors
  - Wood Composite Frames and Wood Doors*
  - Fiberglass Reinforced Polymer (FRP) Frames and Doors

*Fire Rated Wood Doors can be Flush or Stile and Rail Designs – High Pressure Decorative Laminate (e.g., Plastic Laminate) Fire Doors are a Type of Flush Wood Fire Door
Installation

- NFPA 80 Requires Swinging Doors with Builders Hardware to be Installed within the Following Clearances:
  - Hollow Metal Doors: 1/8-inch (plus or minus 1/16-inch) at Vertical Edges and Top Edges of Doors
  - Wood Doors: 1/8-inch Maximum (No Over- or Under-Tolerance)
  - Doors of Other Materials are Treated the Same as Wood Doors
Installation

- Fire Door Tests Allow 1/8-inch Clearance with No Over- or Under-Tolerance
  - UL 10B, Standard for Safety Fire Tests of Door Assemblies
  - UL 10C, Standard for Positive Pressure Fire Tests of Door Assemblies
  - Other Fire Door Test Standards
Installation

• Clearance Under the Doors
  – Maximum of 3/4-inch Where Bottom of Door is Less than 38-inches Above the Floor
  – Maximum of 3/8-inch Where Bottom of Door is 38-inches or Higher Above the Floor

• Access Doors
• Common Misconceptions
  – Label on Door(s) Indicates the Assembly is “OK”
  – Fire Doors are “OK” as Long as They Close and Latch
  – All Fire Doors are Inspected by the AHJ
Installation

- Label on Door Establishes Requirements for Hardware Components
  - Dimension of Latch Bolt Throw (Projection)
  - Application of Fire Exit Hardware
  - Temperature Rise (e.g., 650, 450, and 250 degrees)

✓ Some Labeled Hardware Items Have Restricted Applications
Inspection

• Inspectors Need to be Cognizant of Applicable Code Requirements at Time of Installation

• Presumption of Correct Applications

• Practical Application of Inspection Criteria
• Only the AHJ has the authority to enforce building and fire code compliance
Inspection

- NFPA 80 Requires Annual Inspection and Operational Testing of Swinging Fire Doors with Builders Hardware
  - Chapter 5, Care and Maintenance
    - List of Inspection Points
    - Requires Qualified Persons
    - Written Records Kept for AHJ’s Inspection

✓ **Deficiencies Required to be Repaired Without Delay**
Maintenance

• Door Assemblies are Comprised of Mechanical Equipment that are Subject to Wear and Tear

✓ Failure to Properly Maintain Fire Door Assemblies in Operating Condition is the Action or Inaction that Violates the Building and Fire Codes
Maintenance

- Simple to Complex Functions
  - Fire Safety
  - Life Safety
  - Accessibility
  - Security
  - Access Controlled

✓ Fire Rating Requirements Take Precedence Over Other Code Requirements
Maintenance

• Common Corrective Actions:
  – Tightening Fasteners
  – Replacing Fasteners
    • Builders Hardware Requires Special Fasteners
  – Filling Unused Fastener Holes in Doors and Frames
    • Steel/Stainless Steel Screws, Joint Compound, Wooden Dowels
    • New Caulking-type Products (Designed for Fire Doors)
Maintenance

• Common Corrective Actions:
  – Shimming Hinges to Adjust Door Clearances
    • Steel Shim Material
  – Replacing Small Parts
    • Strike Plates, End Caps, Covers, etc.
  – Replacing Worn Out Hardware
    • Hinges, Locks/Latches, Door Closers, Gasketing, etc.
  – Replacing Broken Glazing Materials
    • Clear Wired Glass, etc.
Maintenance

• **Average Lifespan of Doors, Frames, and Hardware**
  – Door Assemblies Subject to High Frequency Usage:
    • 400 to 5,000 Cycles per day (118,000 to 1,500,000/yr)
    • 3 to 7 years, Depending on the Hardware
  – Door Assemblies Subject to Ordinary Usage:
    • 50 to 200 Cycles per day (18,000 to 75,000/yr)
    • 7 to 15 years, Depending on the Hardware
  – Door Assemblies Subject to Low Frequency Usage:
    • 1 to 20 Cycles per day (300 to 7,000/yr)
    • Up to the Lifetime of the Building, Depending on the Hardware
For More Information:

• Door Security & Safety Foundation
  – Web Site: www.doorsecuritysafety.org

• Door and Hardware Institute
  – Web Site: www.dhi.org

• On LinkedIn
  – The Door and Hardware Institute’s Fire Door Assembly Inspection Group
For More Information:

- Facility Maintenance Personnel Trainings
- Owner’s Guide
- AHJ’s Guide
- Reference Guide

✅ Details available on the Foundation’s website.