

FD20 Fire doors (England and Wales)

(May 2022) (First issue)

Limitations

This note provides guidance on NHBC requirements where FD20 fire doors are required within dwellings i.e. either within a single family dwelling house or a within an individual flat, to comply with building regulations requirement B1.



Question

What do NHBC require where FD20 fire doors are required by the building regulations (England and Wales) following the withdrawal of Building Control Alliance (BCA) Technical Guidance Note 9 'Fire Doors in Dwellings'?

Considerations

- Building regulation requirements for FD20 fire doors?
- Are FD20 fire doors available?
- If FD20 doors are not available what do NHBC require?
- Can a fire door frame and fire door be used to achieve FD20 fire resistance when they have not been tested together?

Answer

The building regulations defines the required minimum period of fire resistance a door is required to achieve, dependent upon a given design. In addition, the building regulations stipulates the tests required to demonstrate a doors fire performance.

Where a fire door is required by the building regulations, this includes the complete door assembly, whether assembled on site or delivered as a completed assembly, consisting of the door frame, leaf or leaves, essential hardware, edge seals and glazing, and any integral side panels. Together these components form the fire door, defined as a 'fire doorset' within the approved documents England.

Where the building regulations requires a minimum of a FD20 fire doorset and these are not available to purchase, a fire doorset capable of exceeding the minimum requirement should be selected, typically a FD30 fire doorset.

Where a FD30 fire doorset is purchased to meet a building regulation requirement to provide a FD20 fire doorset, the FD30 fire doorset must be installed in strict accordance with the manufacturers guidance to achieve the FD30 fire doorset performance, in order to ensure the minimum FD20 requirement is met.

From the 1st July 2022 NHBC will only accept fire doorsets which meet the requirements of the building regulations. Separate door frames and doors which have not been tested together will not be acceptable.

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Overview of testing requirements

All fire doors should meet the requirements of the building regulations, based on one of the following:-

- Fire resistance in terms of integrity, for a period of minutes, when tested to BS 476-22

OR

- All fire doorsets should be classified in accordance with BS EN 13501-2 tested to the relevant European method from the following:

- BS EN 1634-1
- BS EN 1634-2
- BS EN 1634-3

Reference should be made to the building regulations, in order to fully understand the criteria for fire doors and to ensure compliance.

Testing of fire doorsets should be undertaken by a testing laboratory accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) or an equivalent national accreditation body belonging to the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA), who are accredited for the tests they carry out.

Where a fire doorset has been assessed under a product certification scheme and forms part of an extended application assessment, the product certification body should be accredited for their certification scheme, by a National Accreditation Body belonging to the EA, typically UKAS in the UK.