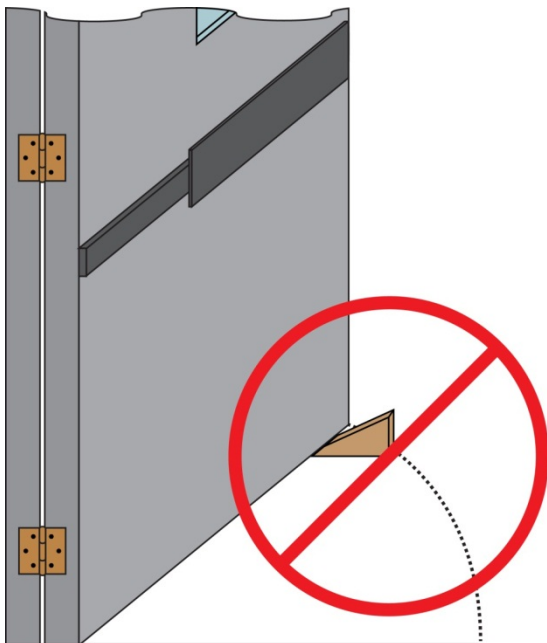
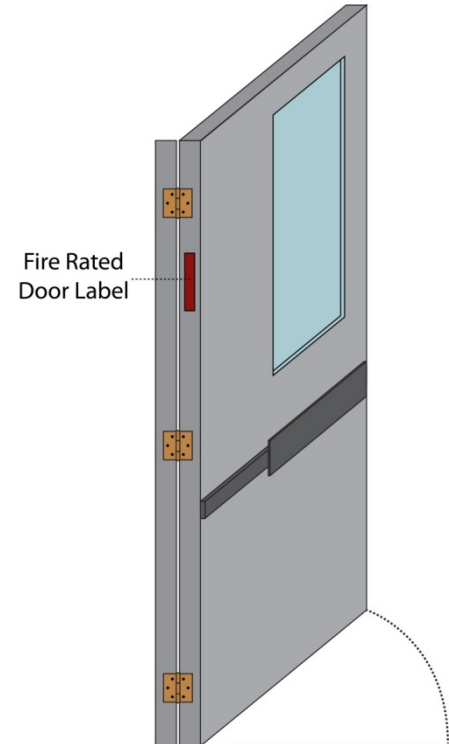


Fire Rated Door Bulletin

What is a Fire Rated Door?

A fire rated door is a door that is designed to prevent smoke/flame from spreading to another area in a building for an estimated amount of time, such as $\frac{3}{4}$, 1, or 2 hours. Fire rated doors are an essential component to the safety of building occupants during a fire. You can identify a fire rated door by the label located on the hinge side of the door. Fire rated doors are usually part of an entire fire rated assembly that extends from the floor to the ceiling. Fire rated doors are installed/maintained per the Township-adopted 2006 Edition of the International Fire Code and the State-adopted 2006 Edition of the NFPA Uniform Fire Code 1.



How Does a Fire Rated Door Affect Me?

Fire rated doors must always be in the closed position or be able to automatically close in case of a fire in accordance with Local and State statutes. This means that wood wedges or other means used to prop open a fire rated door are not code compliant and can be dangerous in the event of a fire. The only code compliant means that may be used to prop open a fire rated door are electronic devices that are connected to the fire alarm system that will allow the door to close upon activation of the fire alarm system.

Where is a Fire Rated Door Located?

Fire rated doors are typically used in three major areas.

1. Stairwells – To protect the area used by building occupants to evacuate the building by preventing smoke/flames from entering the stairwell (Figure 1)
2. Fire Stops – Located in long hallway type areas to prevent smoke/flames from spreading throughout an entire floor (Figure 2).
3. Hazardous Areas – Due to a specific area having an increased potential for a fire to start, fire assemblies are installed to prevent smoke/flames from spreading outside the affected room (Figure 2).

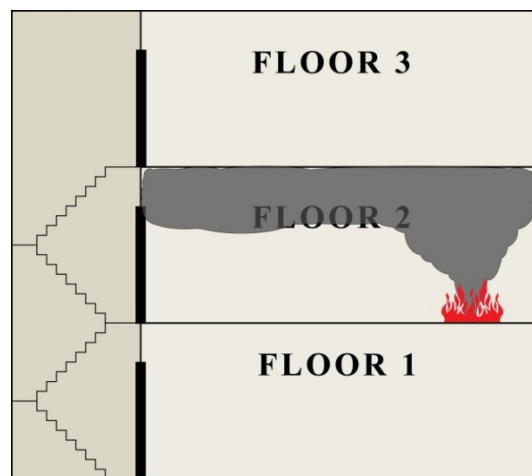


Figure 1

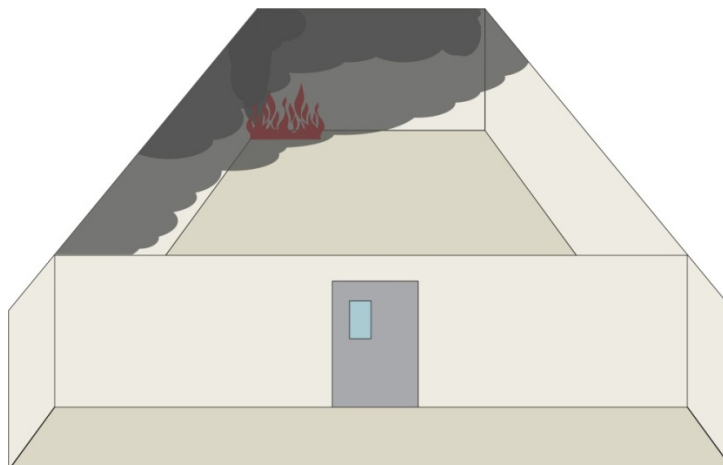


Figure 2

Referenced Statutes:

- 2006 Edition IFC – 703.2 – “Fire Doors and smoke barrier doors shall not be blocked or obstructed or otherwise made inoperable.”
- 2006 NFPA 1 – 12.7.3.3 – “Unless otherwise specified, fire doors shall be self-closing or automatic-closing in accordance with 14.5.4.”