

# Providing FD 20 doors



## Introduction

The Building Regulations identifies fire resistance periods for various elements of construction, including fire doors. In some instances doors with a fire resistance period of 20 minutes (FD 20) are recommended and in others 30 minutes (FD 30). These are designated fire resistance periods. Other fire resistant periods exist but this note only considers these two classifications.

In the past timber fire doors were available which, when tested by the appropriate fire test method, had met these fire resistant periods. It was also possible to obtain a fire door that had a dual classification. Following a test this door design could be accepted as an FD 30 if installed with intumescent seals and as an FD 20 if installed without seals.

## Ending FD 20 production

In 1995 the BWF began developing the BWF-CERTIFIRE Fire Door & Doorset Scheme. During the discussion the test result of a number of dual rated doors were considered. It was noted that in order to meet an FD 20 rating, without intumescent seals, a very accurate fit of the door into its frame had to be achieved. It was also noted that this accuracy would need to be maintained during the service life of the door assembly. With this problem in mind it was agreed by the Scheme members that the Scheme could only apply to doors that were fitted with intumescent seals. Commercially this meant that the FD 20 door was now the same cost as an FD 30 door. It was decided that in future the members of the BWF-CERTIFIRE Fire Door & Doorset Scheme would no longer sell an FD 20 fire door.

## Complying with the Building Regulations

When specifying/purchasing/installing fire doors made by manufacturers in the BWF-CERTIFIRE Fire Door & Doorset Scheme in locations identified by National Regulations as FD 20s, use BWF-CERTIFIRE Fire Door & Doorset Scheme FD 30s. Follow the installation instructions completely. Do not omit the intumescent seals.

Do not change the intumescent seals specification.

Do not change the hardware from that specified for the FD 30.

Ensure that the frame to leaf gaps are not increased.

## Summary

Although the FD 30 door may only have to achieve a 20 minute rating the specification **must not** be amended or reduced. It is not possible to identify which aspects of the specification can be reduced and still expect the door to meet a 20 minute fire resistance period. In particular the omission of the intumescent seals with or without an increase in stop size will invalidate the certification of the door and may lead to premature failure in the event of a fire.