Prime Fire Door Manufacturer

An introduction to fire door certification

What is the BWF-Fire Door Alliance Fire Door and Doorset Scheme?
The BWF-Fire Door Alliance Fire Door and Doorset Scheme (Fire Door Alliance) was established as the BWF-Certifire Scheme by a group of Prime Fire Door Manufacturers aiming to increase the standards of fire doors across the supply chain. The Fire Door Alliance Scheme has now grown to over 90 members and includes Licensed Converters, Suppliers of Certificated Fire Door Components and BWF Approved Fire Door Centres. The members have the opportunity to be involved in the strategic direction and decision making of the Scheme through its meetings held twice a year.

What is a Prime Fire Door Manufacturer?
A Prime Fire Door Manufacturer (PDM) can be either:

1. A company which manufactures a fire door from scratch, which may include the use of a fire door

   core. or

2. A company which purchases a fire door blank not currently certificated by a Third Party Certification (TPC) body, such Certifire (Warringtonfire Testing and Certification Limitited (WTCL)), and turns it into a saleable fire door. This can include adding lipping's, molding's, veneers and fitting vision panels.

   Or

3. A company which purchases a fire door blank currently already certificated by a TPC and turns it into a saleable fire door which is outside of the blank manufacturer's scope of certification. This can include adding lipping's, molding's, veneers and fitting vision panels.

Either processes may include manufacturing fire door frames to suit the fire doors you manufacture and making up doorsets or door-kits.

Aims of the Scheme
The aim of the scheme is that every fire door or fire doorset sold in the UK meets and continues to meet required standards throughout its service life.

The day-to-day objectives are:

1. To improve the standard of fire doors sold and installed in the UK
2. To educate the construction industry and specifiers about the importance of third-party certification of fire doors and passive fire protection systems
3. To raise awareness and educate the consumers, and users of the importance of their liabilities and ways they can meet those liabilities
4. To help members demonstrate quality and compliance
5. To move the market progressively towards fire doorsets as the best way to achieve the Fire Door Alliance Scheme objectives in the long term

Benefits of Scheme Membership

The Fire Door Alliance Scheme is both a certification and third-party accreditation scheme. Certification is the process of confirming that a product, in this case a fire door, complies with its specified requirements and is fit for the operational purpose. Certification, supported by third-party accreditation, tests and verifies a fire door's design, performance, manufacturing process and associated procedures from manufacture to installation.

✓   Certification proves your commitment to producing high quality safety products
✓   You will have an advantage over your non-certificated competitors
✓   Your company is listed in the Scheme Directory and on the Fire Door Alliance website
✓   You will be able to benefit from the Scheme's promotional activities
✓   You can influence the strategic direction of the Fire Door Alliance Scheme through scheme meetings
✓   The BWF will refer specific local enquiries to you

Why become certificated?

Achieving certification should be the minimum requirement for a company manufacturing or converting fire doors and is the minimum requirement for membership of the Fire Door Alliance Scheme. Certification gives your customers and end users confidence in the potentially lifesaving products that you have supplied through a regular auditing process undertaken by a UKAS accredited certification body. Certification will add credibility to your company and give you an advantage over a non-certificated competitor during the tendering process.

Who certificates the product?

A Third-Party Certification (TPC) Body, such WTCL (Certifire), or BM TRADA (Q-Mark), will undertake the certification and accreditation.

Elements have become the leading fire certification body in the UK through testing and certificating the majority of fire doors sold in this country. After completing the certification process, your certificate will be added to respective web sites and you will be permitted to use their logo's in relation to the certificated products. Any audits required to maintain the certification and ISO 9001:2015 or Factory Production Control Systems (FPC) will be handled directly by WTCL or BM TRADA following initial completion of the certification.

What are the requirements?

Factory Production Control (FPC) or ISO 9001:2015

To achieve certification, you must have a Factory Production Control (FPC) system, which will be audited by your TPC, **or** ISO 9001 2015. The latter can be carried out by any UKAS accredited certification body

Testing

To achieve certification the fire door design must be tested to either BS 476 Part 22 or the European equivalent, EN 1634 Part 1 at a UKAS accredited test facility. Both of these tests require the fire door to be tested as a complete assembly, including frame, glazing, ironmongery and intumescent seals.

If you use a door blank that has valid test evidence from a UKAS approved test facility the company manufacturing the door blank must be ISO 9001:2008 certificated.

Following a successful test or assessment, a data sheet will be produced by the TPC that will define the scope of application / adjustment allowed to the fire door to maintain certification. If you offer a bespoke service, it is recommended that you test the worst-case scenario, for example, the biggest fire door, with the maximum glazing area, the largest lock casement, etc., in order to maximise the scope of application allowed. Audit fire tests are required every 5 years, or 250,000[1] fire doors manufactured, whichever comes first, to ensure that the same materials are used, and the same quality of fire door is produced. WCL will advise you when this audit test is due, and the fire door will be selected at random for this test.

Audit

To complete the certification process, your TPC is required to conduct an audit of your factory.
The audit will involve a detailed assessment of your manufacturing process to ensure you are manufacturing the fire door to the same design as the test specimen. The auditor will be particularly looking at the materials used, their densities and dimensions, and that a label and a copy of the installation instructions are attached to the door.
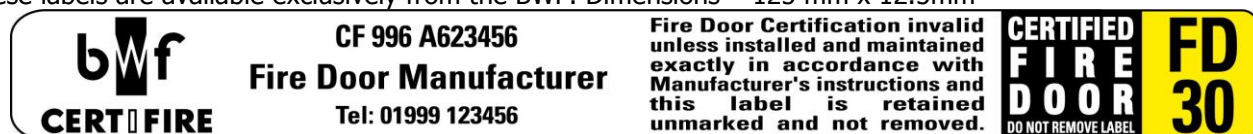
Regular auditing is required to maintain certification.

[1] Manufacturers exceeding 250,000 doors within 5 years may have the audit frequency reduced to every 350,000 and then 500,000 where no failures are registered during the audit.

Label designs

The Fire Door Alliance Scheme requires the use of a tamper evident label, identifying the door's rating, the fire test certificate number, a unique serial number and the name and phone number of the manufacturer. This makes the label traceable throughout the supply chain.

Labels are positioned on the top edge of the door, close to the locking stile (if known), allowing for intumescent seals. These labels are available exclusively from the BWF. Dimensions – 125 mm x 12.5mm

Glazed doors

Where glazed doors are supplied from the factory, an additional label is also required. These labels are supplied by BWF at cost. All doors requiring vision panels must be factory glazed by the manufacturer or glazed by a BWF- Fire Door Alliance Scheme Licensed Door Processor or Converter.

Costs
Scheme membership cost

BWF-Fire Door Alliance Scheme joining fee:
There is a non-refundable joining fee of £250 + VAT to contribute towards the administration processing cost of joining.

After the first year all members must make an annual minimum scheme contribution of £250 + VAT. This will be invoiced in January but rebated through a discount of £42 + VAT per reel of labels ordered (for the first 6 reels).

Scheme label costs

The promotion of the scheme is funded through the sale of labels. Appropriate labels must be applied to all doors certificated through the Scheme.

TOTAL ORDER (Labels with the same CF No.)	Price per Reel	High volume Price per Reel
1-9 Reels	£119.23 + VAT	£47.00 + VAT
10-24 Reels	£72.70 + VAT	£47.00 + VAT
25 – 49 Reels	£54.61 + VAT	£47.00 + VAT
50 – 74 Reels	£49.96 + VAT	£47.00 + VAT
75 or more Reels	£41.69 + VAT	£41.69 + VAT

Note:

a) Labels can only be ordered in Reels (1 Reel = 1,000 labels)
b) High volume rate applies to BWF members who purchased more than 250,000 labels in the prior year and where each order is for 5,000 labels or more
c) The BWF has the sole design copyright on the label
d) The labels can only be obtained direct from the BWF
e) The labels can only be applied to Members' doors that conform in all respects to the requirements of the CERTIFIRE or Q-Mark Schemes
f) Prices include one delivery to UK mainland addresses
g) Delivery to overseas addresses will be charged extra at cost

Indicative costs of certification

The precise cost of certification will vary and we encourage you to contact your chosen TPC to discuss your requirements. We have provided some *__indicative only__* WTCL costs below:

Testing	
Initial fire door test cost to: BS 476 Part 22	£4,025 + VAT
EN 1634 Part 1	£5,025 + VAT
Audit test cost to: BS 476 Part 22	£3,725 + VAT
EN 1634 Part 1	£5,025 + VAT
Audit and issue of certification	
Application for product certification	£795 + VAT
Second & subsequent products	£397.50 + VAT
Initial Audit Fee	£785 + VAT
Annual Audit Fee	£710 + VAT
Annual Certification Fee	£865 + VAT
Second and subsequent products	£692 +VAT

Reasonable travel, accommodation and subsistence costs, where necessary, are additional to those listed in the table above.

Joining BWF-Fire Door Alliance Scheme

Please contact the British Woodworking Federation on 0207 637 2646 or email firedoors@bwf.org.uk or visit www.firedoors.bwf.org.uk for more information.

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