

Fact Card 6 – Fire Doorsets & Door Assemblies

Fire Doorset or Fire Door Assembly – What's the Difference?

Fire Doorset

The British Standard BS EN 12519 provides the following definition for a fire doorset: 'complete unit consisting of a door frame and a door leaf or leaves, supplied with all essential parts from a single source'.

This means that a fire doorset is supplied as a complete unit from one supplier, so is:

- Fully fitted up and finished, direct from the manufacturer;
- Fitted with all compatible components and glazing; and
- Pre-assembled in the factory.

This ensures that the entire doorset and components will match the manufacturer's test evidence, assessment reports or certification documents. When the whole doorset is supplied in individual component parts for assembly on site, this is often referred to as a 'fire door kit'. Fire doorsets can also be supplied with the option of applying the decorative coating on site.

Fire Door Assemblies

BS EN 12519 provides the following definition for a fire door assembly: a 'complete assembly as installed, including door frame and one

or more leaves, together with its essential hardware supplied from separate sources'.

This means that the components can be sourced from many different manufacturers or suppliers.

To make sure that the door assembly works, it must be:

- Only altered as defined in the manufacturer's test evidence, assessment reports or certification document.;
- Fitted with compatible components as per installation instructions; and
- The compatible components must be listed on the door leaf manufacturer's test evidence, assessment reports or certification document.

For fire door assemblies, the decorative coating is usually applied on site, which allows you the flexibility of choosing the coating, type and colour.

Is one better than the other?

No. Certificated fire door sets or door assemblies will have compatible components that meet the Building Regulations and will work in the event of a fire. So the decision depends on the user's needs, budget and convenience.

Points to consider when specifying

Fire Doorset

Compatible components:

Fire doorsets are pre-assembled and therefore the manufacturer includes all the correct components. This guarantees that the entire doorset, including the individual components, will match the tested design.

It also means that there is less room for error because the compatible components are in place, so you avoid the problem of having to source correct components individually.

Installation:

Fire doorsets tend to be treated more carefully on site, as the initial cost of a doorset is more expensive than individual components. Doorsets are also easier to install, as it is only a matter of fitting the assembly to the aperture, following the manufacturer's installation instructions.

Suitability:

Doorsets are ideal for new buildings, as it is just a matter of purchasing the required number of doorsets. Bespoke doorsets are also suitable for refurbishment projects where the existing frame is not required.

Fire Door Assemblies

Compatible components:

The components of door assemblies are sourced from different manufacturers, where you can select from a range of products. If any individual

component gets damaged, it can be replaced from another supplier.

The correct components for fire door assemblies are listed in the manufacturer's instructions (they are also available on the individual company websites, and can be purchased from companies listed on the "Find a Supplier" page of the BWF Fire Door Alliance website www.firedoors.bwf.org.uk

Installation:

Any door leaves that are purchased in this way must be fitted in accordance with the test evidence provided by the manufacturer. For example, a door leaf tested only in a single leaf, single acting configuration should NOT be installed as a double leaf door. Door assemblies can be installed sequentially during the different stages of the building process, enabling components to be stored and protected.

Any doors requiring apertures such as vision panels or air transfer grilles should be prepared and supplied by a company that is authorised to undertake this work. The BWF Fire Door Alliance has members who are certificated to undertake this task. Apertures should NEVER be cut or glazed on site as this will invalidate any certification of the door.

The manufacturer's installation instructions will provide you with full guidance and information to ensure correct sourcing and fitting of compatible components to achieve the right performance level for the fire door assembly.

Purchasing:

Using fire door assemblies can be cost effective, in that, each individual component can be sourced separately at different times, enabling you to stagger the purchasing cost, so long as the components comply with the manufacturer's installation instructions and are compatible to the test evidence of the door leaf.

It is imperative that you refer to the manufacturer's installation instructions supplied by every BWF Fire Door Alliance member, to ensure that you are either sourcing and installing the correct and compatible components for door assemblies or fitting the doorsets correctly and in the correct configuration.

These instructions also available to you on the company websites. Please contact the BWF if you have difficulties in obtaining them.

Disclaimer:

Note: Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of advice given, the BWF cannot accept liability for loss or damage arising from the use of the information supplied in this publication.



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