



A Manifesto for Fire Safety



The British Woodworking Federation manages the BWF-Certifire Fire Door and Doorset Scheme, the largest training, certification and product scheme for fire doors in the UK.

About BWF-Certifire

150
member
companies

70%
of third-
party certified fire
door market

Approx. **3 000 000**

fire doors made by scheme members per year

About fire doors

- **First line of DEFENCE in a fire**
- **Used in EVERY building**
- **Contains and provides a BARRIER between ourselves and a fire**



- **SAVES LIVES and property in the event of a fire**

About third-party certification



Best practice



Compliance checks



Safety checks

“The thing about fire is that it is unpredictable. It spreads fast. Without a properly installed fire door in place, a fire can rip through a building and there is little to stop it.”

Hannah Mansell BA, MSc, DipFD
BWF Schemes and Technical Manager

The true cost of fire

£1 billion fire-related property insurance claims 2014

162
building
fires a day

9,100

fatalities or casualties from building fires in 2013-14



1. Working practice must emphasise safe practice

45% of people responsible for fire safety in their organisations say they don't know how to spot a dodgy fire door.

Regulation 38 of the Building Regulations requires a package of fire safety information to be handed to the **responsible person**. This information should enable the operation and maintenance of the building in reasonable safety (e.g. **certificates covering fire doors and components**). This vital part of the Building Regulations is often over-looked and due to timing of hand-over documents, very difficult to assess for compliance.



677 fire door inspected at 31 sites

2506 faults were identified

What we are doing: Through certification, our members produce verified, detailed information to ensure that fire doors are appropriately tested, installed, inspected and maintained to retain integrity.

What we need from governments: Building control consent should not be granted until full compliance with Regulation 38 is confirmed and documented. We want to see support for the review and improvement of fire safety in the Building Regulations, with more emphasis on door safety and compartmentation in buildings that have a 'stay put' fire plan and house vulnerable residents.

2. Inadequate products must be stamped out

Lack of controlled fire door specification, combined with subjectivity and inconsistent guidance in the Building Regulations, undermines the fire safety of buildings.



Component Compatibility

100% of sites suffer from inadequate product substitution

Zero Carbon Hub report on the performance gap on housing sites

What we are doing: Members of BWF-Certifire invest in testing and auditing to ensure that they adhere to UKAS accredited certification of fire door safety measures. The scheme implements robust identification and traceability including links to fire certificates, installation instructions and compatible components. Clearly traceable, third-party certificated products save time for building control inspectors.

What we need from governments: Serious consideration should be given to enshrining third-party certification for fire doors and other passive fire protection products into regulation. Approved Document B falls short of requiring third-party certification and allows products to be installed without adequate proof of performance or compliant installation. It is crucial to limit the opportunity for substitution of untested and dangerous products through tighter regulation, better guidance and effective building control.

3. Responsible People must be visible and accountable



When people with **formal responsibility** for fire safety in their organisations were asked in 2014 if they were fully aware of their legal obligations

45% said they either did not know or admitted they were unclear.

- Private Landlords
- Building Owners
- Facility Managers
- HMOs and Flats
- Education Estates
- Social Housing
- Public Buildings
- Hospitals, Care Homes
- Sheltered Accommodation
- Fire Safety Professionals
- Hotels and Hostels

10,500+

notices over recent years



120+ prosecutions

“In Sophie’s case, after three years no prosecutions have been brought and the Coroner was frustrated in her attempts to allocate the blame to any particular person or organisation.” Julian Rosser 2015



Remember Sophie Rosser
www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAGvmQUR8dl

What we are doing: BWF-Certifire provides training, support and freely available guidance which may be referenced and incorporated in any official guidance and we remain on hand to support Governments in the development of an effective framework.

What we need from governments: Clarify the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 about who is the responsible person for fire door specification, procurement, installation, maintenance, inspection and documentation. Support a national register of Responsible People.

4. Education and awareness must be promoted



As our campaign grows, the vantage point it gives us provides deeper insight into the extent of the problem. We continue to uncover ever more concerning stories around specification problems, installation bad practice, neglect and poor management. The state of the nation’s installed fire door stock is a borderline national crisis.

What we are doing: Fire Door Safety Week is a public awareness campaign led by the BWF now entering in its 4th year that has so far reached **20 million people**. Working closely with the Fire Kills campaign, we distribute guidance via PR, social media, training events and multimedia content. Since the start of the campaign, more than 280 organisations have supported us and BWF-Certifire members have run events attracting more than 1,000 delegates.

What we need from governments: Support the inclusion of specific fire door training into formal qualification and competency frameworks within the fire door supply, construction industry and maintenance chain. Support Fire Door Safety Week and the associated fire safety awareness campaigns of FDSW supporters.

FIRE SAFETY ISN’T JUST ABOUT FIRE DOORS, BUT...

“When the worst happens, it is the compartmentation of fire and the correct installation of fire doors that holds back fire and buys us time, creating safe refuge and a protected route for the emergency services to come to our aid.”

The BWF-Certifire Fire Door and Doorset Scheme works collaboratively with other trade associations and fire safety organisations to increase awareness about fire safety

