Fire Doors – Fact Sheet

A fire door consists of certain features that prevent the spread of smoke and fires. Fire door assembly includes any combination of a fire door, a frame, hardware, and other accessories that together provide a specific degree of fire protection to the opening.

At SUA, you may find fire doors near EXIT signs, around elevators, or where doors lead to exit staircases. Below is an example of a fire door.

The easiest way to determine whether a door is a fire door or not is by looking for certification label (shown below). These labels can be found on top or side of the door. Doors lacking below certification may require further verification for the final determination.
## Inspection of Fire Doors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What to check?</th>
<th>Certification</th>
<th>Smoke Seals</th>
<th>Closing Properly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Check for such labels or certification on top or on side of the door.</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Check if the doors close fully onto latch without sticking on the floor or the frame. Self-closing doors must fully close and latch without manual assistance. Check for event flyers or unrelated stickers/labels on fire doors. Items that may delay evacuation should not be posted on or around fire doors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How?</td>
<td>Open the door and check for labels using mirror or selfie camera.</td>
<td>Open the door and see the edges of the door and door frame.</td>
<td>Open the door about halfway. Let go and observe what happens when you allow it to close by itself.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerns?</td>
<td>Report to Facilities Maintenance (ext. 4099) for missing or colored/painted labels.</td>
<td>Report to Facilities Maintenance (ext. 4099) for worn out, painted, or damaged smoke seals or for any other concerns.</td>
<td>Report to Facilities Maintenance (ext. 4099) if fire doors do not fully close and/or latch on their own.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table content adopted and modified from IFSEC Global’s [Fire Door Checklist](#).*
Fire Doors and Common Violations

Fire doors are installed to prevent smoke and fires from spreading into other areas. Therefore, fire-rated doors, shutters, and windows shall be kept closed and latched or arranged for automatic closing. Unfortunately, many fire doors at SUA are often kept open for the convenience of visitors. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 80 prohibits such practices. In fact, section 5.1.2.3.3 of NFPA 80 prohibits blocking or wedging of doors in the open position.

Fire doors can be held open ONLY if they automatically release when building fire alarms are activated. This can be done by having fire doors installed with approved automatic closing devices.
Fire Doors and Common Violations

Another commonly found violation is obstructed exit doors. According to section 5.1.2.3.1 of NFPA 80, door openings and their surrounding areas shall be kept clear of anything that could obstruct or interfere with the free operation of the door.
**DO(s)** | **DON’T(s)**
---|---
Keep all exit doors and fire doors closed at all times. Do NOT prop fire or exit doors open.
Replace worn out/damaged smoke seals as soon as possible. Similarly, replace fading or missing door certification labels with new ones as early as possible. Ensure that fire rating in new label(s) matches with the old label(s). Do NOT paint/color smoke seals, door certification labels, and approved automatic closing devices (e.g. fusible links, door magnets, etc.).
Ensure that all fire doors and exit doors close fully and latch without manual assistance. Do NOT obstruct exit doors as well as fire doors. Similarly, do NOT obstruct access to sprinkler risers or sprinkler riser rooms.
Report fire door issues to Facilities Maintenance (ext. 4099). Do NOT tape door latch covers.

![Fusible Link](image)