

Based on *NFPA 80, Standard for Fire Doors and Other Opening Protectives* (2007 edition), documented inspections for fire-rated door assemblies are now required on an annual basis. Chapter 5, “*Care and Maintenance*,” addresses the care and maintenance of fire doors and fire windows, both new and existing.

As 5.2.1 states “Fire door assemblies shall be inspected and tested not less than annually, and a written record of the inspection shall be signed and kept for inspection by the AHJ.”

Swinging doors with builders hardware are the most common type of fire door assembly, and are among the most complex due to the myriad of materials and products that are used to create them. These assemblies often provide accessibility, security and life-safety functions in addition to their fire-safety protection, also increasing their complexity. Inspectors must thoroughly understand the dynamics of these assemblies in order to correctly evaluate them in the field.

What role does our industry play?

As 5.2.3.1 indicates, “Functional testing of fire door and window assemblies shall be performed by individuals with knowledge and understanding of the operating components of the type of door being subject to testing.” Due to the education and training provided by DHI (see additional information below), members of our industry will have the opportunity to actively participate in the inspection process.

For additional information or to find out how you can become a Fire Door Assembly Inspector (FDAI), please contact DHI at 703-222-2010 or go online to www.dhi.org.

FOUNDATION
for the Advancement of *Life Safety and Security*



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ANNUAL FIRE DOOR ASSEMBLY INSPECTION PROGRAM



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Who has the authority to enforce NFPA 80?

With continued authority, AHJs will confirm that the inspections occurred by reviewing the documentation and verifying that the necessary corrective actions were taken to repair assemblies that were found to have deficiencies. The AHJ community will rely on the expertise of industry personnel to perform and document the inspections.

Who is responsible for the maintenance and care of fire-rated door assemblies?

Responsibility rests solidly on the shoulders of the building owners. The role of the inspector is to simply record and report the condition of the door assemblies to the owner. Owners will have to decide if, when, and what corrective actions will be taken; otherwise they will run the risk of being cited for violations by the AHJ.

What role does DHI play in the inspections?

DHI has created a training program that provides students with door, frame and hardware product and application knowledge. The program culminates in a 3-day training class that concentrates on NFPA 80's inspection requirements (including proper documentation practices). This training is open to all interested parties.

Who else is involved in this program?

Intertek (through its Warnock Hersey Mark) has partnered with DHI to offer an additional certification as part of this program. Upon passing the FDAI class exam, individuals will be invited to enroll in Intertek's "Fire Door Inspector" certification program.

Underwriters Laboratories is currently working with DHI to develop a program that will also support NFPA 80's requirements.

Who is creating awareness and a demand for this program?

The Foundation for the Advancement of Life Safety and Security has taken the lead with the fire service community to create awareness and educate officials on the importance of fire door assembly inspections and the role that these inspections play in life safety.

ANNUAL FIRE DOOR ASSEMBLY INSPECTION PROGRAM (AFDAIP)

Fire Door Assembly Inspector (FDAI)

In order to become a FDAI you must successfully complete the Door and Hardware Institute's DAI 600 - Fire Door Assembly Inspection class (FDAI class). This class will teach you how to perform and record the annual inspections in accordance with the NFPA 80 requirements. The class will also provide tips for interacting with owners and AHJs.

Prior to registering for DAI 600, individuals must first complete the following pre-requisites:

- SSC100 - *Fundamentals of Architectural Doors and Hardware* Self-Study Course
- COR110 - Basic Architectural Hardware
- COR115 - Hardware Applications
- COR140 - Using Codes and Standards

Individuals certified as Architectural Hardware Consultants (AHCs), Certified Door Consultants (CDCs), Electrified Hardware Consultants (EHCs) and/or Architectural Openings Consultants (AOCs) are automatically eligible to enroll in the FDAI class.

Why should I participate in the Annual Fire Door Assembly Inspection Program?

- Establish credibility in your role as a leader in life safety and security
- Be directly responsible for increasing life safety
- Advance your career and increase your value as an employee
- Increase your competitive edge
- Create a new business model for distribution
- Increase your opportunity to meet with end-users
- Create a new revenue stream by simultaneously handling the inspections, upgrades and residual maintenance for fire-rated doors

To assist our industry as they conduct their annual inspections, DHI has created an Inspection Report form and a Model Business Agreement available to those who have successfully completed the Fire Door Assembly Inspection class. The Inspection Report form will be used to document their inspection(s). Building owners will then be able to keep the necessary paperwork on file in compliance with the new code requirements. The second form, the Model Business Agreement, is a standard document to be used by the inspector's company with the building owner.