Fire Doors – What’s in a label?

Each fire door is labeled with a permanent label that must remain legible. Fire-rated frames may have a label or embossment from a listing agency.

The door and frame labels include:
- The manufacturer,
- Length of time the component is designed to resist fire,
- Whether the opening is to be equipped with fire-exit hardware, and
- Whether the door carries a temperature-rise rating or is a smoke-door assembly.

Labels are usually placed on the hinge edge or the top of the door.

**Fire door labels** usually include a number allowing manufacturers to access more information about the door’s original construction. Frame labels may state a fire-resistance duration longer than that of the door. In this case, the assembly’s rating will be the lower of the two. Some hardware, such as fire-exit hardware, will also be labeled, but the information on the label is typically less detailed.

A **construction label** is applied when a door or frame is used in a location that requires a fire rating but does not qualify as a rated product. For example, the door or frame may be a size that has not been tested, the jamb depth may be larger (or smaller) than the manufacturer’s listings allow, or the specified hardware may not be included in the manufacturer’s listings. This is not the same as a UL or WH/Intertek label, which certifies the product has been tested to withstand fire for the stated period.

The construction label typically states the door or frame is identical in construction to a listed door or frame but does not bear a listing mark from a testing laboratory because of some type of limitation. The construction label does not certify that the door or frame is capable of furnishing standard fire protection but that it is manufactured with the same materials and methods used in the manufacturers’ listings. The label is a means to permanently mark the product so all parties know at a glance the door or frame did not meet the listing requirements.