

## FIRE DOOR ASSEMBLIES AND FIRE DOORSETS

**QUALITY ALERT: 006**

**ISSUE DATE: 22.11.23**

**RISK LEVEL: HIGH**

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GIRI's Quality Alert scheme enables members to share knowledge of quality issues to assist other teams in eliminating error.

Member companies are invited to use the [Quality Alert Proforma](#) to submit details of quality issues online.

Submissions are assessed, anonymised, compiled, and shared with other GIRI members to assist knowledge transfer within the organisation and support our zero-error quest.

Issues will be logged by GIRI so that any trends can be identified and used to pinpoint future priorities for research and development.

### THE PROBLEM:

A GIRI member has raised the issue of a lack of clarity relating to specification of fire door assemblies and fire doorsets, which could lead to supply of inferior products.

### WHO IS THIS GUIDANCE FOR:

Designers, specifiers, purchasing departments.

### THE RISKS:

Fire door assemblies and fire doorsets rated by time to BS 476 Part 22 are NOT equivalent to those rated by time to BS EN 1634-1, and further classified to BS EN 13501-2.

The same fire door assemblies and fire doorsets will obtain a lower time rating when tested to the European furnace method, which conversely means the national ratings give products a more favourable score.

Specifiers should be aware that statutory guidance in Table C1 of Appendix C for fire doorsets in both volumes of Approved Document Part B (2019 as amended 2020 and 2022) erroneously suggests that national and European ratings are equivalent.

Until the Secretary of State corrects the statutory guidance, or entirely transitions from the BS 476 series as was consulted upon in March 2023, the European test and classification should be relied upon in specification and procurement.

### POTENTIAL IMPACT:

The BS 476 series of standards is acknowledged to be out of date, and all reliable technical aspects have been subsumed into the European BS EN 13501 series. Many test authorities are already avoiding the BS 476 tests. Clients expecting a specified time rating may be supplied inferior BS 476 Part 22 products.

### PREVENTATIVE MEASURES:

- Do not specify or procure fire door assemblies or fire doorsets by time rating alone. To specify 30, 60, 90, 120 or 240 minutes without specifying BS EN 1634-1 testing and BS EN 13501-2 classification is to risk being supplied a BS 476 Part 22 tested and rated product with inferior performance.
- Do not specify or procure fire door assemblies or fire doorsets using BS 476 Part 22, but instead explicitly specify and procure BS EN 1634-1 tested and BS EN 13501-2 classified fire door assemblies and fire doorsets.

**Working together to eliminate error in construction**

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