

ASK JOE HETZEL

DASMA Technical Director

Rolling Doors and Drop Testing

How often should a rolling steel fire door be drop tested?

Joe: Drop testing should be conducted yearly, at a minimum, for maintenance purposes.

Door manufacturer requirements for drop-test frequency are consistent with NFPA 80* and building/fire code requirements. A door should also be drop tested after it is installed and any time it is mechanically repaired.

DASMA TDS 271 provides a helpful drop-test form along with guidelines for testing procedures. You can view, download, or print TDS 271 for free at www.dasma.com.

**The 2013 edition of NFPA 80 was recently published. It includes expanded maintenance procedures and a new requirement that fire doors be replaced if they are not able to be repaired with parts from the original door manufacturer or retrofitted in accordance with NFPA 80.*

I have a rolling steel fire door needing a drop test, but I do not see any label on the door. What do I do?

Joe: This is common with older doors, doors in corrosive environments, and doors subject to heavy usage. A rolling steel fire door label is important because it identifies the listing agency, fire rating, and the door manufacturer and/or file maintained by the listing agency. However, many older fire doors were manufactured before the availability of oversize-door labels and were provided with paper certificates to be kept on file by the building owner.

If the label is missing, the door manufacturer cannot be identified, and building maintenance has no door records, the local building department should be contacted. The building department may have permit records containing the information that would have been found on the label.

If the building department has no door records, contact a local dealer with trained rolling steel fire door technicians. They will perform a visual and operational safety evaluation of the door before conducting a drop test.

CORRECTION:

Editor's Note: In our fall issue, we published an "Ask Joe" answer that wasn't correct. The question was, "I am a homeowner with an automated vehicular gate. I do not want the photoelectric eyes. Do I have to have them installed?"

Our answer began, "The short answer is yes. If an operator is labeled per UL 325, both primary and secondary entrapment protection must be included with the operator."

We should have said, "If an operator is labeled per UL 325, it must have provisions for, or be supplied with, at least one independent primary and one independent secondary protection against entrapment."

The mistake was made by the editor and not by Joe Hetzel. We apologize for the confusion. ■



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