



ASK JOE HETZEL

DASMA Technical Director



Repainting fire doors

Q Can I repaint an existing rolling steel fire door?

JOE: In general, both painting and repainting a rolling steel fire door should be carefully approached. Here's why.

- Paint adds weight to the door and may affect (1) the door counterbalance system and (2) door operation when starting, at mid-height, and when ending.
- Some paints may be incompatible with the existing finish on the door.
- Some paints may interfere with slat articulation or other moving parts.
- Painting may affect the automatic closing function if applied to locations that must be kept paint-free.

It is important to note what NFPA 80 says about painting. Under the Rolling Steel Fire Doors section of Care and Maintenance, Section 5.2.3.8 reads: "Fusible links, release devices, and any other moveable parts shall not be painted or coated with other materials that could interfere with the operation of the assembly."

If repainting is desired because the curtain surface has deteriorated, you should improve the surface of the door in ways other than painting. One option is to replace deteriorated parts of the curtain with parts from the original door manufacturer in accordance with NFPA 80.

In all instances involving painting, the door manufacturer should be contacted. The door's fire rating and operation must never be compromised. ■

ASK JOE!

To submit a question to DASMA's technical director, send an email to jhetzel@thomasamc.com. See other technical tips and Ask Joe columns at the DASMA website at <http://bit.ly/2BOhMOV>.