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Test Rolling Fire Doors in the Fully Open Position ONLY!

Rolling fire doors serve a dual purpose - as a means of controlling service access, and as a means of protecting one building area from another in a fire. The two functions of a fire door require two different counterbalance settings. For service door operation, the door must be well balanced for ease of operation; however, in the event of fire, the door must close by itself. Manufacturers accomplish this dual function in several different ways. In some cases, the release of a portion of the spring tension is required.

To ensure that a fire door operates properly in a fire, periodic drop testing is required. When performing this type of testing, the door must be in the fully open position. This position is critical not only in measuring the success of the test, but also in avoiding permanent damage to the door during the test and also in safeguarding against potential injury to people in the vicinity of the door.

Spring tension increases as the door descends, reaching its maximum when the door is fully closed. Should the door be drop-tested in the closed position, the spring tension released would be extremely high, and would likely cause door damage or even an unsafe condition. The proper way to drop-test the door is when it is fully open. If a fire door that releases spring tension is drop-tested in other than the fully open position, any one of the following can happen:

- Breaking, denting or deforming of the tension wheel
- Breaking or displacing of the wheel stop
- Shearing of unseen parts inside the barrel
- Falling debris

A broken or damaged fire door cannot provide protection as intended. To maintain the function and integrity of the fire door, always test with the door starting in the fully open position.

Note: Some fire door closing systems do not require a release of spring tension, and are not subject to damage as described above.

Note: Technical Data Sheets are information tools only and should not be used as substitutes for instructions from individual manufacturers. Always consult with individual manufacturers for specific recommendations for their products and check the applicable local regulations.

This Technical Data Sheet was prepared by the members of DASMA's Rolling Door Division Technical Committee. DASMA is a trade association comprising manufacturers of rolling doors, fire doors, grilles, counter shutters, sheet doors, and related products; upward-acting residential and commercial garage doors; operating devices for garage doors and gates, sensing devices, and electronic remote controls for garage doors and gate operators; as well as companies that manufacture or supply either raw materials or significant components used in the manufacture and installation of the Active Members' products.