Introduction to Fire Door Certification

In the United Kingdom, fire doors are subject to strict regulatory requirements designed to ensure they perform as intended during a fire. Certification is a critical part of this process, providing assurance to regulators, building owners, and end users that a door set has been tested and proven under controlled conditions.

Testing Standards

The two main testing standards are BS 476: Part 22 and BS EN 1634-1. BS 476 is a long-established British Standard (ADB) for assessing the fire resistance of building elements, while BS EN 1634 is the European harmonized standard used across the EU and increasingly within the UK. Both involve exposing a complete door set — including the leaf, frame, glazing, seals and hardware — to a furnace that simulates a real fire. The test measures how long the assembly maintains integrity (preventing flames and smoke from passing through) and, where required, insulation (limiting heat transfer). The resulting classification is usually expressed in terms such as FD30 or FD60, indicating 30 or 60 minutes of fire resistance.

Important Note – BS 476 is set to be removed from ADB by 2029, leaving BS EN 1634 as the primary testing standard for doorsets in the UK going forward. All doorsets previously tested under BS 476 will need to be retested and recertified inline with the revised standard.

Test Facilities

All fire testing must be carried out in a UKAS-accredited test laboratory to ensure reliability and impartiality. The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) is the national body that guarantees testing and certification meet recognized international standards. Leading UKAS-accredited test houses include Warringtonfire, BRE Global, BM TRADA and. UL International. Only results from such accredited facilities are accepted as valid within building control and regulatory compliance.

Test Reports & Field of Applications

Following a successful test, the laboratory issues a fire test report, which provides detailed information about the door's construction, its performance under test conditions, and the precise scope of approval. Because a test only applies to the exact configuration that was tested, a companion document known as a Field of Application is often produced This defines the range of variations permitted, such as changes in door size, glazing apertures, or the use of different ironmongery, without invalidating the certification. Together, the test report and field of application document form the technical foundation for a compliant fire door product.

Third Pary Accreditation

While a successful test provides the initial evidence of performance, many manufacturers also seek third-party certification to give ongoing assurance that their products consistently meet the required standards. Well recognized schemes in the UK include Certifire, IFC Certification, and the BM TRADA Q-Mark scheme. These schemes go beyond one-off tests, incorporating regular audits of manufacturing processes, product

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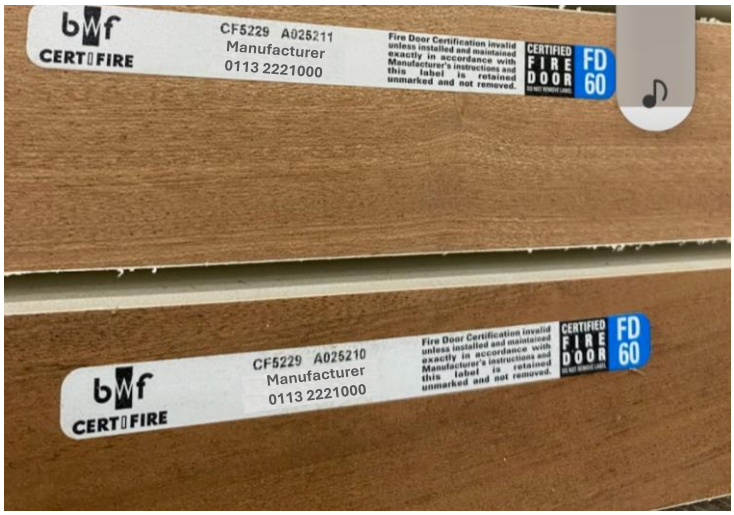
sampling, and quality management systems. This ensures that every door leaving the factory continues to match the specification of the product originally tested. Moreover, these schemes provide a wider scope of design flexibility to its members, allowing them to provide a wider variety of doorset configurations.

Fire Door Tagging

Certified fire doors are permanently marked with labels or plugs that identify the manufacturer, the certification scheme, the fire rating, and a unique reference number. These identifiers are critical during inspections and maintenance, as they provide clear evidence of compliance and traceability back to the test reports and certification records. Without such markings, it is difficult for building inspectors to confirm whether a door meets legal requirements.



Other Important Standards

BS EN 13501 provides a harmonized European system for classifying the fire performance of construction materials and building elements, including timber doorsets. It defines how products are assessed for their reaction to and resistance against fire, ensuring consistent performance standards.

For doorsets, Part 2 of the standard (BS EN 13501-2) classifies fire resistance based on integrity (E), insulation (I), radiation (W), and smoke control (Sa/S200). Classifications such as E30 or EI30 indicate that the doorset maintains integrity and insulation for 30 minutes under test conditions, typically determined through testing to EN 1634-1. The standard underpins compliance with Approved Document B, allowing manufacturers to demonstrate verified fire resistance and smoke control for timber doorsets as complete, tested assemblies.

Fire Rating	BS 476	BS EN 1634/13501
30 Minutes	FD30	E30
60 Minutes	FD60	E60
90 Minutes	FD90	E90
120 Minutes	FD120	E120
Smoke	(S)	(Sa)

For more information visit the UKAS, BWF or CERTIFIRE website