

Guidelines for Labeling Fire Doors and Applicable Code Sections

Labeling Guidelines

Labels identifying fire doors and instructing occupants to keep the doors shut at all times are to be placed on fire-rated doors that can be blocked open in violation of codes. The following items explain the general locations where fire-rated doors are required based on the 2003 edition of the *International Building Code* (IBC) and the 2003 edition of the *Life Safety Code* (NFPA-101). The items listed below are to be used as a checklist for applying the labels. Please note the conditions for which labels are not needed.

Doors Where Signs are Required

- Doors to mechanical equipment/electrical rooms
- Doors leading to enclosed exit stairwells
- Doors in exit passageways (see definition)
- Laundry Room Doors
- Doors in horizontal exits (see definition)
- Doors leading to smokeproof enclosures from corridors (see definitions of smokeproof enclosures which applies to high-rise buildings only)
- Doors leading from smokeproof enclosures to stairwells
- Doors leading to corridors in residential occupancies

Exceptions

Labels are required on **all** the doors described above. However, labels are to be omitted on doors under the following conditions:

1. Magnetic door holders, connected to the buildings fire alarm system, are installed. The magnetic holders, when actuated by the alarm system, will allow the doors to automatically close.
2. No labels are required on student room doors in Residence Halls that open into corridors because they are normally closed. Please note that student room doors that open into exit enclosures or exit passageways **are** required to have labels.
3. No labels are required on doors to areas that are normally kept shut or locked, such as security doors or office doors which open into corridors. Please note that security doors or office doors that open into exit enclosures or exit passageways **are** required to have labels.

Label Positioning

Labels are to be placed such that the label can be seen when the door is in the propped open position.

Labels are to be placed 1/8" above or below door features (e.g., door handle/knob, window (view panels), panic hardware)

Labels are to be installed level and straight and in an aesthetically acceptable manner.

Place stickers above the center of panic hardware (horizontally centered)

Before placing signs on decorative or historic doors, please contact and coordinate with the building proctor.

Definitions

(IBC – 1002) An exit passageway is an exit component that is separated from all other interior spaces of a building or structure by fire-resistance-rated construction and opening protectives, and provides for a protected path of egress travel in a horizontal direction to the exit discharge or the public way. Normally an exit passageway is the horizontal continuation of an enclosed exit stairwell.

(NFPA-101: 3.3.61.1) A horizontal exit is a way of passage from one building to an area of refuge in another building on approximately the same level, or a way of passage through or around a fire barrier to an area of refuge on approximately that same level in the same building that affords safety from fire and smoke originating from the area of incidence and areas communicating therewith. For example, this condition exists in William Village, when two adjacent buildings are connected via walkways.

Relevant Code Sections

- Furnace rooms containing equipment over 400,000 Btu/hr input need to have a one-hour separation or an automatic fire extinguishing system. (IBC Table 302.1.1)
- Boiler rooms with any boiler over 15 psi and 10 horsepower need to have a one-hour separation or an automatic fire extinguishing system (IBC Table 302.1.1)
- Interior exit stairways and interior exit ramps need to be enclosed with fire barriers. Where exit enclosures connect four stories or more, the exits need to be 2 hour rated. Exit enclosures that serve less than 4 stories need to be 1 hour rated. (IBC 1019.1)
- Exit passageways are required to be at least 1-hour rated, and not less than that required for any connecting exit enclosure. (IBC 1020.3)
- Laundry rooms over 100 square feet need to have a one-hour separation or an automatic fire extinguishing system. (IBC Table 302.1.1)
- Residential buildings equipped throughout with automatic sprinkler systems need to have corridors that are .5 hour rated. (IBC 1016.1)
- Doors in horizontal exits are required to be self-closing or automatic closing (IBC 1021.3)
- A smokeproof enclosure is to be enclosed from the highest point to the lowest point with fire-rated barriers. When a vestibule is used, the openings are to be protected by self-closing fire-rated assemblies. Vestibules are to be considered part of the smokeproof enclosure. Please note that smokeproof enclosures exist in the Williams Village Towers (NFPA-101: 7.2.3.3 and 7.2.3.4)
- Fire doors need to be self-closing or automatic-closing. (IBC 715.3.7)