

Correct specification, installation and maintenance of fire doors are critical to ensuring your building is safe.

If you're concerned about the safety of fire doors in your building, here is a simple 5-step checklist.

1. FIRE DOOR LABEL

- Look for a label, a plug or a similar marking on the top (or occasionally on the side) of the door to show that it's certificated, and follow the instructions. **IMPORTANT:** All ironmongery such as locks, latches, closers and hinges, **MUST** be CE marked and compatible with the door set's certification
- Without a certification mark, you cannot be sure this really is a fire door
- Use a mirror or the camera on your phone. Or, better still, a Checkmate Fire GAP Gauge.

2. FIRE DOOR GAPS AND SEALS

- Look for any intumescent seals around the doorframe or leaf edge. Check they're intact with no sign of damage. Check the gap around the door frame/leaf edge is constant and less than 4mm when the door is closed. The gap under the door can be slightly larger (up to 10mm) unless it's a fire/smoke door, in which case it should also be less than 4mm - but it does depend on the door.
- All seals should be from the same manufacturer and not different specifications. A clue would be to observe seals of different colours, or a combination of brush and fin seals in the same door set.

3. FIRE DOOR HINGES AND CLOSERS

- Check that the closer shuts the door into closed position - and that CE marked grade 11 or 13 hinges are firmly fixed (3 or more of them), with no missing screws
- Be sure the door has been properly maintained - check for any maintenance or remediation events which have been carried out to the door.

4. FIRE DOOR GLASS AND GLAZING

- Check the seal is continuous and present between the glass and beading. Also, check that the glazing beads are firmly fixed to the glazing aperture and free from damage
- Be sure the seals, beads and glass are all intact and free from damage to ensure they will work in the event of a fire. Clear glass should display manufacturer and FR performance marks etched in the top or bottom corner or the glass.

5. FIRE DOOR LEAF, FRAME AND OPERATION

- Check the door leaf closes firmly onto the frame without binding. This can be a sign of a poorly installed door set
- A fire door only works when it's closed. A fire door is rendered completely useless if it's wedged open or can't close fully.

