

# BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

## NFPA 80 UPDATES THE WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, AND WHY

December 2018

### Introduction to NFPA 80:

NFPA 80, the Standard for Fire Doors and Other Opening Protectives, was established to set national standards for the installation and maintenance of assemblies used to protect openings in walls, floors, and ceilings that prevent or slow the spread of fire and smoke from the fire's origin to adjacent rooms or to the interior or exterior of the building. NFPA 80 also provides guidance to Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs) that can assist in the determination of whether a product in the field meets the requirements set forth in the standard. Manufacturers, facility managers, installers, inspectors, and AHJs frequently reference this document due to the understanding that opening protectives are a vital aspect of fire protection and therefore, are critical to maintaining the safety of building occupants.

### The Updates

#### Who?

Changes to NFPA 80 affect manufacturers of fire doors, fire door frames, fire windows, oversized doors, and products labeled in the field, as well as companies that are approved by Certification Bodies to modify and relabel certified fire doors and fire door frames. The revisions to the requirements, along with the guidelines outlined in the standard, will make it much simpler for AHJs to determine compliance to building code.



#### What?

One of the more impactful changes to NFPA 80 in the 2016 edition was the inclusion of detailed provisions for the information required on the labels for fire doors, fire door frames, fire windows, and oversized doors. The revisions to the requirements, along with the guidelines outlined in the standard, made it much simpler for AHJs to determine compliance to the building code.

Label requirement updates include, but are not limited to:

- The inclusion of the standards the assembly was tested to
- The rise in temperature transmission
- The minimum latch throw for swinging doors that are provided with builders' hardware

Most recently, in September of 2018, the 2019 version of NFPA 80 was released. The significant change in the 2019 version is that field labeling must now be performed by the listing agency that inspects and labels the product in question. The verbiage was changed, as shown below, to confirm the new requirement.

- New Verbiage (2019)  
5.1.4.1:

**"Field labeling shall be performed by the listing agency that maintains periodic inspections of production of the labeled equipment or materials under review, and by whose labeling the manufacturer indicates compliance with appropriate standards or performance in a specified manner."**

\*Additional information detailing the new requirements for each product type is available separately from this bulletin. Please contact our Certification Help Desk ([bpcerthelpdesk@intertek.com](mailto:bpcerthelpdesk@intertek.com)) for access.

#### When?

The most recent version of NFPA 80 is the 2019 edition, published in September of 2018. The next iteration of the International Building Code (IBC) will be in 2021. This will then reference the 2019 version of NFPA 80 which highlights the new direction of the industry. The adaption will require field labeling to be performed by the same listing agency that inspects and labels the product. Some AHJs may implement this version of NFPA 80 into their system prior to the next code cycle.



## Where?

Once the 2021 International Building Code (IBC) goes into effect, the requirements of NFPA 80 will be evaluated and upheld by AHJs throughout the United States. Any product installed in a jurisdiction that recognizes the IBC must meet the updated labeling specifications.

## Why?

Previous versions of NFPA 80 lacked clarity regarding the agencies that could perform field labeling services on products. Representation in the case that something was to go wrong, is critical and machiners need to remain confident that they are being represented by staff with the correct expertise. Fire doors act as protection for both life and property, therefore, the new requirement to have field labeling performed by the same listing agency, minimizes such risk towards future business, life, and property.

## Field Labeling

Field labeling may become necessary for a variety of reasons, such as field modifications, doors leaving factories without labels, incorrect labeling, or labeling that has been painted over or removed. When field labeling services are required, both AHJs, and you as a manufacturer, need to be assured that the body conducting the field labeling service has an in-depth knowledge of the doors and frames that they are labeling.

It is critical that the field inspector have access to the supporting documentation for the doors and frames that they are labeling to correctly identify and address field modifications and properly re-label the opening protective.

Manufacturers work with their certification bodies to ensure that all their opening protectives have been correctly labeling by an accredited third party prior to being installed, which will help to avoid the risk and liability on the back end that comes with mislabeled products. However, when products are found at the job site that are not correctly labeled, the certification agency has the knowledge to re-label these doors when it is appropriate.

## The Intertek Solution:

Ensuring your products are tested, certified, and labeled according to regulatory requirements is vital to the success of your business. Working with Intertek aligns you with a partner with the history, expertise, and industry involvement to meet all your needs for certifying and labeling your opening protectives.

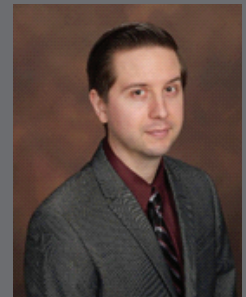
As a recognized leader in Building & Construction Product Certification, we provide our clients the means to show compliance to industry requirements with the speed and efficiency to differentiate

their products in the marketplace. Intertek will follow the guidance of NFPA 80 regarding field labeling and we look forward to assisting with any issues in the field. Our Certification Department can help product manufacturers or machiners of Intertek Certified Products establish these new requirements, knowing that they will have the backing of Intertek's Warnock Hersey Mark, North America's leading product safety and performance mark.

Intertek is with you throughout every step of the certification process from project initiation, through product listing, to follow up inspections and certification maintenance to provide you the confidence that your opening protectives are, and will continue to be compliant with regulatory and safety requirements.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

### Justin Hendricks Program Manager - Openings



Justin Hendricks is the Program Manager for Openings and is located at our Middleton, WI facility. He has extensive experience in fire resistance testing and code compliance, primarily regarding openings related building products both to North American and European test standards. Additional areas of expertise include manufacturing facility auditing and inspections, quality control program development, all facets of third-party product certification programs, product evaluations (engineering analysis), and business development through internal and external means.

### Charlie Meyers Program Manager - Certification



Charlie Meyers is the Program Manager for Certification and is located at our Arlington Heights, IL facility. He has extensive experience in establishing and administering product certification programs globally. Additional areas of expertise include project management, quality control program development, client services management, and business development activities.