

# BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

## THE CHANGING DYNAMIC OF CERTIFICATION & FIELD LABELING

### Introduction:

While most may not give it much thought; doors, frames, and their hardware are critical components of safety within a building. Your customers want to be assured that in the event of a fire; the building's opening protectives will meet the minimum requirements established by building codes and keep occupants safe from harm.

When entering into the process of certifying and labeling their opening protectives, there are a number of questions that manufacturers should ask themselves: Are my products being tested and certified to the latest standards? Will I be able to enter the desired markets? What happens if an opening protective needs modifications once in the field?

Working with an accredited third party certification agency can help to answer these questions and guide you through the process of bringing opening protectives to the market. With a growing number of entities on the scene, however, it is important to establish what to expect from a certifying body, and what distinguishes one from another.

### Certification:

When having fire doors and frames certified, it is crucial that your certifying body test and evaluate them to the latest applicable standards. Given that certification to the latest standards is required to enter into certain markets, failure to do so can make it harder to have the products approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).

As a manufacturer, you do not want to face a situation where an AHJ rules that your fire door assemblies do not comply with regulatory requirements. In such a case, assemblies cannot be accepted until all non-compliance issues have been addressed, resulting in more time and money spent. Having the most up to date certification and proper labeling on the opening protective components reduces the chance of risk and liability on the back end for the client.

To avoid these types of situations, it is important to work with a certifying body that is actively involved in the industry through participating in standard development, conducting testing, and updating and training clients on the latest regulations.

### Field Labeling:

Field labeling may become necessary for a variety of reasons, such as field modifications, doors leaving the factory 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.



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Manufacturers work with their certification bodies to ensure that all of their opening protectives have been correctly labeled 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 jobsite that are not correctly labeled, the certification agency has the knowledge to re-label these doors when it is appropriate.

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## Why Intertek?

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 of your needs for certifying and labeling your fire doors and frames. Intertek's Warnock Hersey (WH-ETL) Mark is one of the most widely recognized and accepted certification marks in the industry. Partnering with Intertek brings you a team that can certify doors in their entirety and critically apply engineering judgements based on an extensive knowledge of testing in a quick and efficient manner.

In its nearly sixty years in the fire testing industry, Intertek has developed a network of over 1,000 participants in its machiner program.

Intertek experts are also active participants in developing the standards to which fire doors are tested and certified, and they have actively reached out to those in the industry by conducting training sessions on testing, certification, and field inspection. In addition, Intertek's Standards Update Notice (SUN) Program keeps clients apprised of the latest regulatory changes.

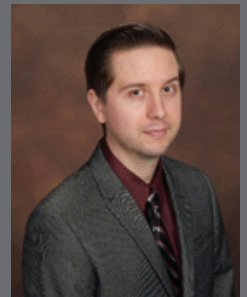
If field labeling is required, Intertek experts provide the wherewithal to identify the modification needed, and provide insight into what will be required to make that modification, such as engineering analysis or additional testing. When an Intertek engineer conducts field labeling on a fire door, they are relying on an inherent knowledge of that door, and an in depth understanding of every aspect of fire doors. Intertek's Field Evaluation Process provides a broad review of all openings within a building, saving time and additional expense for clients.

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.

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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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.



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