



FIRE DOOR FIELD LABELING SERVICES DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE GETTING?

There are numerous agencies currently offering the field evaluation and labeling of Fire Protective Openings per NFPA 80 – 16 “Standard for Fire Doors and Other Opening Protectives” in the United States, but don’t be fooled.

Agencies performing these services must be accredited for multiple services in relation to the fire performance, rating and certification of openings. Specifically, the 2015 International Fire Code §703.2 Opening protectives, states: “Opening protectives shall be maintained in an operative condition in accordance with NFPA 80. Where allowed by the fire code official, the application of field-applied labels associated with the maintenance of opening protectives shall follow the requirements of the approved third-party certification organization accredited for listing the opening protective...”. Additionally, NFPA 80 §5.1.4.1 states: “Field labeling shall be performed only by individuals or companies that have been certified or listed, or by individuals or companies that are representatives of a labeling service that maintains periodic inspections of production of labeled equipment or materials and by whose labeling the manufacturer indicates compliance with the appropriate standards or performance in a specified manner.” (e.g. NFPA 252, UL10B/C, etc.)

The terms “listing/listed” and “labeled” are used frequently within many codes, but how are they defined? The definitions of these terms are clearly laid out in various codes and editions of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code and NFPA 80, and are defined as follows:

LABELED. Equipment or materials to which has been attached a label, symbol, or other identifying mark of an organization that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with product evaluation, that “maintains periodic inspections of production of labeled” equipment or materials; and by whose labeling the manufacturer indicates compliance with the appropriate standard or performance in a specified manner.

LISTED. Equipment, materials, or services included in a list “published” by an organization that is acceptable to the authority have jurisdiction and concerned with evaluation of products and services, that “maintains periodic inspection of production of listed” equipment or materials or periodic evaluation services, and whose listing states that either the equipment, material, or service meets appropriate designated standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.

Though there is a lot of similar language in the above, the above references to “published” or “accredited for listing” within the IFC by an organization is extremely specific. In order to “publish” or “list” a certified product, equipment, material, or assembly; the agency must be able to properly evaluate the product which is covered by being accredited to IEC/ISO 17065. The “evaluate” term is extremely important as well since the key aspect of inspecting a Fire Protective Opening is to ensure it will perform as “tested” and “listed”, so it can be confirmed via NFPA 80 that the opening and hardware support the required fire resistance rating as defined in NFPA 252 or UL 10B/C.

The intent of this language is to validate and provide confidence to the authority having jurisdiction that the agency evaluating and labeling fire protective openings is competent in the testing and manufacturing to ensure the opening is fit for function, and not only installed per NFPA 80. The involvement of a 3rd party agency in the initial performance evaluation (testing), continued surveillance of manufacturing (periodic inspections) and the “published” listing (certification) of a product, equipment or material does just that.

HOW QAI CAN HELP

QAI is an IEC/ISO 17025 (testing), IEC/ISO 17020 (inspection) and IEC/ISO 17065 (certification) agency by the International Accreditation Service (IAS), as well as an OSHA Nationally Recognized Test Laboratory (NRTL) for the evaluation of fire performance of door assemblies and field evaluation/labeling of fire protective openings.

With a network of laboratories and inspectors across North America you can be assured that we meet the requirements of the requisite codes and are approved by the authority having jurisdiction. For more information on QAI’s Fire Door Field Labeling services please contact us at info@qai.org.