

# GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR BWF-CERTIFIRE SCHEME MEMBERSHIP



## What is the BWF-CERTIFIRE Fire Door and Doorset Scheme?

The BWF-CERTIFIRE Fire Door and Doorset Scheme was launched in 1997 by a group of Prime Fire Door Manufacturers within the BWF with an aim to improve the standard of, and information concerning fire doors.

The Scheme is a third-party accreditation and certification scheme and is operated and managed by the British Woodworking Federation (BWF). It was established as a partnership, combining the membership, lobbying and promotion skills of the BWF with the technical and certification skills of Warrington Certification Ltd (WCL).

The ultimate vision of the scheme is that every fire door or fire doorset sold in the UK meets the requirements of the building regulations applicable to England and Wales, and the relevant building specification requirements in Scotland and Northern Ireland - and continues to meet these standards throughout its service life.

The members have the opportunity to be involved in the strategic direction and decision making of the Scheme through its meetings held twice a year in May and November. All members are invited to attend.



## Facts about the Scheme

The BWF Fire Door and Doorset Scheme is the largest accreditation and certification scheme for fire doors and associated products in the UK. The exacting standards expected of members' and their products are set in order to ensure quality and above all, safety, in the event of a fire.

The scheme includes manufacturers, licensed door processors as well as approved suppliers, who play an important part in maintaining these standards.

- Third-party accreditation by industry-recognised partner
- Robust independent auditing and scrutiny of each member and their products
- ISO 9001 Factory Production Control requirement for all its members
- Clear labeling of products
- Traceability of every product sold under the Scheme
- Certification of companies licensed to process / convert fire doors
- Certification of all components fitted to fire doors
- The biggest fire door certification Scheme in the UK
- High market penetration - 70% of fire door market
- Authoritative and influential voice within the Fire and Construction Industries
- Significant marketing initiatives and programmes
- Free member listing in the Scheme Directory and website

## Auditing - More than just certification

Building owners, installers, inspectors and maintainers must ensure that a fire door can function correctly in the event of a fire. To do so they need to have evidence to show that the door assembly has been tested and achieves a rating for the fire door.

- A test certificate alone, only tells the purchaser that a company's products have been tested and they have a certificate to prove it. **It provides only a snapshot of the product test.**
- Third-party certification tests and verifies a fire door's design, performance, manufacturing process and quality assurance at the time of manufacture. In addition, **the company is independently audited** to ensure that all the management and manufacturing processes and systems are in place to ensure consistency with the product that was tested.
- **The product too, is subjected to regular scrutiny**, with frequent testing taking place on standard products to ensure that the test wasn't a one-off result.
- **Certification rules** apply to each door leaf or doorset manufacturer as well as those door processors who are licensed to make alterations to the door.

## Labeling and Traceability

The correct installation and maintenance of a fire door is vitally important. Fire doors MUST comply with the building regulations which apply throughout the UK. They must also be inspected and maintained correctly under regulations which apply to all existing non-domestic buildings throughout the UK<sup>1</sup>

One of the Scheme's main features is to ensure that every installer and end-user of a fire door is aware of how the door complies, and how it should be fitted correctly and maintained.

The Scheme's label identification system describes :

- The fire rating of the door (shown in minutes)
- The door's certification number (CF or CAF number)
- The door's unique manufacturing number (to allow traceability of the product)
- The name and contact details of the manufacturer or licensed door processor

Installation and maintenance instructions, supplied with every door define which components should be fitted to the door to ensure correct performance.

Door leaves that are apertured and glazed by the door manufacturer, or by one of the Scheme's Licensed Processors, are also labeled to show that the door's certification has been maintained.

## How your company benefits from the Scheme.

Being part of the BWF Fire Door Scheme means that your business is accredited and certificated, thus demonstrating that your company's products are consistently checked to the high standards required by regulation. Third party-certificated products are becoming increasingly specified because of the more robust requirements required for these products.

---

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Building Regulations for new buildings - Approved Documents in England and Wales / Technical Handbooks in Scotland / Technical Booklets in Northern Ireland : The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety ) Order, England and Wales / The Fire Scotland Act / Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order

Your company's membership is widely promoted through focused marketing activity, but there is more that you can do to get maximum value, by using many of the marketing tools developed by the Scheme for you.

## Getting the most out of the scheme . . . .

### Step 1: Tell your customers to look for the label

Scheme members apply labels to all fire doors to show that their doors are certificated and that your company and its products are audited to comply with the Scheme Rules<sup>2</sup>. The labels ensure traceability and provide additional reassurance to specifiers, your customers, and to building inspectors as well as to end-users in addition to helping to promote the wider principles of the Scheme.

- Make sure customers understand how the label works and what it means.
- A core scheme message is to "look for the label".
- It doesn't stop there. Ensure you let all potential customers know that you are in the Scheme.

### Step 2: Promoting membership on your website and literature

Add details of the scheme and your membership to your website as a simple way to promote your involvement. Use the following information to highlight your membership.

#### **BWF-CERTIFIRE Fire Door and Doorset Scheme:**

The BWF-CERTIFIRE Fire Door and Doorset Scheme is the largest accreditation and certification scheme for fire doors and associated products in the UK. The exacting standards expected of its members' and their products are set in order to ensure quality and above all, safety, in the event of a fire. The scheme is focused on promoting robust standards and reliable manufacture. All participating members of the BWF-CERTIFIRE Fire Door and Doorset Scheme are rigorously assessed and audited, providing specifiers with the added security and confidence in the products being selected.

We are proud to be members of the BWF-CERTIFIRE Fire Door and Doorset Scheme.

### Step 3: Make full use of the logo and marketing material

Over the 16 years the Scheme has been operating, we have developed a wide range of material to help members educate customers and our target market, and to provide valuable reference information. These include:-

- Use of the Scheme logo for all company stationery e.g. letterheads, compliment slips, business cards, invoices, estimates etc. The logo is available for use by members on request.
- Gap testers designed to explain the label - and a tool to measure the important gap between door and frame. A special version is available for those companies selling to merchants / installers
- The use of leaflets or Scheme literature such as Fact Cards, many of which can be overprinted with your company name
- The use of any video material either by direct link to the Scheme website or embeded from the BWF YouTube channel

#### How healthy are your fire doors?



#### GIVING YOU THE FACTS ABOUT FIRE DOOR CERTIFICATION

##### How safe are YOUR fire doors?

Fire doors play a vital role as part of a building's passive fire protection system. They help reduce the spread of fire and smoke, slowing down the spread of the fire smoke and allowing occupants to either escape the building or being unable make clear of smoke and fire, or wait for rescue within a protected area.

Manufacturers often make claims that their products are tested and achieve a certain performance level. Did the products meet that level? And if so, that have in the area or in the UK, all fire door designs should be tested to BS 476 Part 22 or the European equivalent BS EN 1363-1. To be tested these fire doors must be made in the UK and the manufacturer and distributor must have a certificate supporting the performance of the door.

It is also important for a manufacturer to demonstrate that the products that make are available to the general public and that they are not made in a non-EU area.

##### Ways of demonstrating fire door performance

There are three ways in which manufacturers describe their compliance.

##### 1. Self-declaration

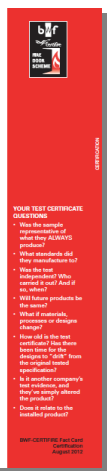
Where a manufacturer makes their own claim of conformity by stating that the door, doorset or door component 'complies with' or is 'designed to' or 'tested to' a certain standard.

These claims are not guaranteed that products will meet the right standards so that they will continue to do so. There are an increasing number of the door manufacturers and component manufacturers who make such claims.

##### 2. Test certificates

A certificate with the number that a company's products have been tested and they have a certificate of test result.

But caution still needs to be taken with this information. It provides only a snapshot of the product test.



Fact Cards on a variety of topics

<sup>2</sup> If you need help buying labels or have any queries regarding the process, please refer back to the scheme manual or call Jenny Taylor at BWF on 0844 209 2618

- On social media channels you use to promote e.g. Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook Our Twitter name is @bwf\_certifire and LinkedIn Group is "UK Fire Doors"
- All marketing material is CPD Approved



Gap checkers for Installers



Online Educational Videos

## Step 4: Training your staff and customers

The Scheme has developed a number of training programmes to make sure your staff are able to demonstrate their knowledge and expertise to customers and other specifiers.



Our courses range from "An Introduction to Fire Doors" - an online course providing a simple understanding of fire doors and their components - to an FDIS Diploma\*, an industry-recognised diploma examination and qualification in fire doors, enabling staff members to have DipFD on their business cards.

*\* An FDIS Diploma qualification is the first stepping-stone in the journey to become an Accredited Fire Door Inspector. You may wish to consider how your company may benefit in offering this unique service. For more details visit [www.fdis.co.uk](http://www.fdis.co.uk) or contact the scheme Manager, Neil Ashdown*



Qualifying Fire Door Professionals

## Need more help?

For further information about the BWF's Fire Door Scheme visit the website at [www.bwfcertifire.org.uk](http://www.bwfcertifire.org.uk)

The BWF-CERTIFIRE Fire Door team can help you further:

<p><b>General Training &amp; Marketing Advice:</b></p> <p><b>Dave Campbell</b> BWF Marketing &amp; Training Manager T: 0844 815 9981 F: 0844 209 2611 <a href="mailto:dave.campbell@bwf.org.uk">dave.campbell@bwf.org.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Technical Advice:</b></p> <p><b>Kevin Underwood</b> Technical Manager T: 0844 209 2614 F: 0844 206 2611 <a href="mailto:kevin.underwood@bwf.org.uk">kevin.underwood@bwf.org.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Scheme Management:</b></p> <p><b>John Fletcher</b> BWF Fire Door Scheme Manager T: 01246 292178 <a href="mailto:john@fletcherconsulting.co.uk">john@fletcherconsulting.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>Neil Ashdown</b> Fire Door Inspection Scheme Manager T: 07970 201231 <a href="mailto:neil@fdis.co.uk">neil@fdis.co.uk</a></p>
--	--	--

## Summary of Resources

Here's a summary of some useful resources available from the BWF-CERTIFIRE Fire Door Scheme:

- Website Address : [www.bwfcertifire.org.uk](http://www.bwfcertifire.org.uk)
- Knowledge Centre : [www.bwfcertifire.org.uk/knowledge-centre](http://www.bwfcertifire.org.uk/knowledge-centre)
- Fact Cards: <http://www.bwfcertifire.org.uk/publications/fact-cards>
- Fire Door installation video : [www.bwfcertifire.org.uk/knowledge-centre/installation](http://www.bwfcertifire.org.uk/knowledge-centre/installation)
- An Introduction to Fire Doors Training Video : [www.bwfcertifire.org.uk/knowledge-centre/introduction-to-fire-doors-cpd](http://www.bwfcertifire.org.uk/knowledge-centre/introduction-to-fire-doors-cpd)
- Fire Door Safety Checklist : [www.bwfcertifire.org.uk/fire-door-safety](http://www.bwfcertifire.org.uk/fire-door-safety)
- Fire Door Diploma : [www.fdis.co.uk/qualify-with-fdis](http://www.fdis.co.uk/qualify-with-fdis)
- Fire Door Inspection Scheme : [www.fdis.co.uk](http://www.fdis.co.uk)