

F63-04/05

703.4

F172-04/05

1027.2.1 (New)

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Testing. Horizontal and vertical sliding and rolling fire doors and swinging fire doors with builders hardware, shall be inspected and tested annually to confirm proper operation and full closure. A written record shall be maintained and be available to the fire code official upon request.

Justification:

- Existing code mandates require inspection at time of installation and occupancy. We seek language to add annual inspection to prevent alteration made after occupancy that negatively impacts life safety and security. The proposed language is designed to ensure continuance of the original code compliance.
- Swinging fire doors are an integral part of the life safety system.
- Inspection would be expected to improve compliance and safety of the Swinging fire doors and the builders hardware. Precedence exists. Similar formal inspection programs now are in force for elevators, fire extinguishers, sprinklers, fire alarms, and rolling fire doors.
- In an empirical study done recently, 25% of fire doors in new buildings in Fairfax County, VA were not in code compliance.
- Recent high profile incidents, such as the Chicago stairwell fire, have brought to light the true need for such inspection.

F172-04/05

1027.2.1 (New)

Door Inspections. Doors in the means of egress shall be inspected annually by a qualified individual to confirm proper operation. A written record of the inspections shall be maintained on file and shall be made available to the fire code official upon request.

Justification:

- Existing code mandates require inspection at time of installation and occupancy. We seek language to add annual inspection to prevent alteration made after occupancy that negatively impacts life safety and security. The proposed language is designed to ensure continuance of the original code compliance.
- Inspection of doors in the means of egress is not performed at adequate frequencies due to the lack of mandatory requirements.
- Doors in the means of egress are an integral part of the life safety system.
- Inspection would be expected to improve compliance and safety of the doors and hardware, similar to the formal inspection programs now in force for elevators, fire extinguishers, sprinklers, fire alarms, and rolling fire doors
- There have been numerous occasions where doors in a means of egress have not functioned properly during a fire.

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