



# THIRD PARTY CERTIFICATION OF FIRE DOORS

Version - Updated September 2020

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# Introduction

There is a legal requirement for manufacturers of fire doors to provide proof of the ability of their products to resist the passage of fire through the provision of test evidence. In order to achieve this many manufacturers will use a third party testing and certifying body. There are a number of organisations who provide testing and certifying of fire doors under British Standard 476 Part 22 or BS EN 1634 Part 1.

The main certifying bodies are:

- Warrington Certification who undertakes testing on behalf of the British Woodworking Federation under the BW Certifire scheme; and
- BM Trada who offers UKAS accredited "Q" Mark fire resistance testing.

It has recently come to light that both BW Certifire and BM Trada will no longer certify the use of Beech timber in doors with a fire resistance performance of >60 minutes. This is due to evidence identifying that Beech Timber (*fagus sylvatica*) has been found to produce inconsistent results when fire tested, this includes when the density and moisture content are within the parameters outlined in both the BS and EN standards.

Previously if a fire door was tested using a hardwood then all other hardwoods within the same density class, and with similar characteristics, could be included in the certification. Further industry led testing has highlighted that Beech timber chars at a significantly faster rate than other similar hardwoods, so is not normally able to withstand test fires for the designed 60 minutes duration. This is not applicable to 30-minute fire doors, which can be made from soft or hardwood.

Some manufacturers may still opt to make 60-minute fire doors from Beech wood, however they should provide their own test results and certification for these specific doors and not generic test data.

For the majority of BFFF members this is not likely to be a significant issue as most of your doors are likely to be of 30-minute duration and therefore not covered by this. Areas where 60-minute fire doors may be found would be between different occupancies within the same building (for example offices and manufacturing), however it is normal to find separation consisting of two 30-minute doors, basements opening onto protected staircases (again, usually achieved with two doors) or in some high risk areas. As a further aid to identification, 30-minute fire doors are normally 44mm thick and 60-minute fire doors 54mm.

If any member feels on inspection that they have beech 60-minute fire doors they should in the first instance contact [carlabrown@bfff.co.uk](mailto:carlabrown@bfff.co.uk) who can liaise directly with Essex County Fire & Rescue for further advice.





British Frozen Food Federation

Registered Office: Warwick House, Unit 7, Long Bennington Business Park, Main Road, Long Bennington, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG23 5JR

Tel: 01400 283090

Fax: 01400 283098

Websites: [www.bfff.co.uk](http://www.bfff.co.uk)

[www.freshfromthefreezer.co.uk](http://www.freshfromthefreezer.co.uk)

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