

## PROVIDE/REPAIR SELF OR AUTOMATIC CLOSING FIRE RATED ASSEMBLIES

Violation #26

### CODE SECTIONS

*International Fire Code 2012 Edition*

**703.2 Opening protectives.** 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. Fire doors and *smoke barrier* doors shall not be blocked or obstructed, or otherwise made inoperable. Fusible links shall be replaced promptly whenever fused or damaged. Fire door assemblies shall not be modified.

**703.2.1 Signs.** Where required by the fire code official, a sign shall be permanently displayed on or near each fire door in letters not less than 1 inch (25 mm) high to read as follows:

1. For doors designed to be kept normally open: FIRE DOOR—DO NOT BLOCK.
2. For doors designed to be kept normally closed: FIRE DOOR—KEEP CLOSED.

**703.2.2 Hold-open devices and closers.** Hold-open devices and automatic door closers, where provided, shall be maintained. During the period that such device is out of service for repairs, the door it operates shall remain in the closed position.

**703.2.3 Door operation.** Swinging fire doors shall close from the full-open position and latch automatically. The door closer shall exert enough force to close and latch the door from any partially open position.

**703.3 Ceilings.** The hanging and displaying of salable goods and other decorative materials from acoustical ceiling systems that are part of a fire-resistance-rated floor/ceiling or roof/ceiling assembly shall be prohibited.

**703.4 Testing.** Horizontal and vertical sliding and rolling fire doors 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.

### EXPLANATION

Fire-rated assemblies are required to fully function at all times. Removal of any obstructions and periodic maintenance is required to ensure proper operation. Annual testing of fire doors is required to verify proper operation. The occupant may perform these tests or may employ a company to perform the tests. After the test, the doors must be placed back into service and available to close in the event of a fire. A written record of the annual tests must be presented to the fire inspector.

### RATIONALE

Fire rated assemblies, such as fire doors, are required to close or seal an opening in a wall constructed to keep fire from traveling throughout your building. By performing annual testing and any required maintenance including removing obstructions that may keep the door from completely closing, we hope to ensure that these devices will activate as they are designed to and will effectively seal they opening in the fire rated wall.