Important Fire Safety Information Regarding

**Georgia-Pacific Gypsum FireDefender® FireDoor Components, Standards, Testing and Certification**

Georgia-Pacific Gypsum FireDefender® FireDoor Components are manufactured for use as components in fire doors, fire door frames and transoms for which a fire resistance rating is required in a residential, commercial or other structure by an applicable building code. Fire doors, fire door frames and transoms are required by standards established by third party organizations to provide certain levels of fire resistance (usually measured in time periods such as sixty-minute, ninety-minute, etc.) when tested in a laboratory setting under certain controlled conditions and pursuant to certain procedures.

Because actual fires vary both from lab conditions and from fire to fire based on a wide variety of factors -- such as the amount, nature and distribution of available fuel and ventilation, as well as the size, configuration, and other characteristics of the compartment in which the fire occurs -- fire tests are not representative of actual fire conditions. Fire test results should be regarded as only one among a variety of factors used to assess the potential of a fire door, fire door frame or transom containing Georgia-Pacific Gypsum FireDefender® FireDoor Components to perform as part of a structure. Even if a fire door, fire door frame or transom, or an assembly in which such a door, frame or transom is utilized, is referred to using terms like "sixty-minute" or "has a sixty-minute fire rating," this does not mean that the fire door, fire door frame or transom, or the assembly incorporating the fire door, fire door frame or transom, will withstand the effects of an actual fire for sixty minutes.

***In the event of an actual fire, you should immediately take any and all action necessary for your safety and the safety of others without regard for any fire rating of any product or assembly.***

Fire test standards often do not contain specific details for construction of the test furnaces or equipment to be used. Since test furnaces and equipment are subject to variation due to individual characteristics of construction, design and control, including, but not limited to, ventilation, atmospheric conditions, and general thermal tendencies, test results are typically not fully repeatable or reproducible from one laboratory to another. Test regimens may also vary.

Because fire tests are conducted on fire doors, fire door frames and transoms, and not on individual door, frame and transom components, fire tests do not assess individual components for their fire-resistance characteristics. Moreover, because fire doors, fire door frames and transoms are assemblies of components, the ability of a door, frame or transom to pass a specific fire test may vary with variations in the quality and nature of the components, including door hardware, and in the manner in which the components are assembled. Finally, because fire doors, fire door frames and transoms are incorporated into wall/floor assemblies for testing purposes, the ability of a door, frame or transom to pass a specific fire test may well depend on factors other than the fire resistance of the door, frame or transom itself. These factors include, but are not limited to, the other components used to construct the assembly in which the door, frame or transom is being tested and the manner in which the assembly is constructed.

Given the very different circumstances that may exist from one fire to another, the differences between conditions in an actual fire and the laboratory test conditions, and the inherent variability of fire tests, passing a fire test in a controlled laboratory setting or certifying or labeling a fire door, fire door frame or transom as having a sixty-minute, ninety-minute, or other fire resistance rating and hence as acceptable for use in certain fire rated assemblies/systems, does not mean that either a particular assembly/system incorporating the fire door, frame or transom, or that any individual door, frame or transom itself, will necessarily provide "sixty-minute fire protection," "ninety-minute fire protection," or any other specified fire protection in an actual fire. It also does not mean that any individual door, frame or transom will pass a fire test.

Third party organizations may authorize fire door, fire door frame or transom manufacturers using Georgia-Pacific FireDefender® FireDoor Components to label their fire doors, fire door frames and transoms as having certain fire resistance or endurance characteristics, or as acceptable for use in fire rated systems based on criteria established by the third party organizations. These criteria may or may not require fire testing. Accordingly, the fact that a particular fire door, fire door frame or transom has been certified as having certain fire resistance or endurance characteristics or as acceptable for use in particular fire rated systems by a third party organization does not necessarily mean that door, frame or transom was subjected to a fire test.

Once a third party organization has certified that a fire door, fire door frame or transom has a particular fire protection or resistance rating, any door, frame or transom manufactured in accordance with the specifications for that door, frame or transom may be stamped or labeled accordingly. The manufacturer is not required to conduct periodic fire tests as long as the company follows the procedures, if any, established by that third party organization to ensure that the manufacturer's product is manufactured in compliance with certain quality control procedures. Third party organizations may approve changes in certified specifications on criteria they establish, which criteria may or may not require fire testing.

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