Schools Learn that Steel Passes the Test

There isn’t a sweeter sound in the world to cooped up students than the final bell. They immediately stampede out of the building, barreling through anything between them and the great outdoors.

Designers and facility managers have learned that wood doors can’t withstand this type of abuse day after day. Steel lasts much longer than wood due to its natural strength and durability.

When steel does get damaged, it’s easy to repair. Facility managers just apply bondo, sand, and paint it, and the door looks like new again.

View the info sheet and product selection guide on the right for more information. The next school you work with will be glad you did.

Trending Questions on Fire Ratings and Smoke Doors

It’s been SDI’s long-standing goal to continuously develop free and easy to understand information on steel doors and frames. More than 20,000 people a month rely on SDI’s standards, videos, FAQ, and online courses for the information they need.

When the website doesn’t have the information you’re seeking, we welcome you to contact SDI with questions on standards or general steel door and frame inquiries. (Please contact the manufacturer with product-specific questions.)

When the same question keeps coming up, we like to answer it in the FAQ or newsletter so it helps others.
who may be wondering the same thing. The two questions below have been asked by numerous architects lately.

**Three Hour Fire Walls**

Table 1 in [SDI-118 (below)](#) shows the required fire ratings of walls and door assemblies for a variety of openings. We are often asked what rating a door assembly should have when paired with a 3 hour wall.

![Table 1 - Fire door openings](#)

SDI-118 - *Basic Fire Door, Fire Door Frame, Transom/Sidelight Frame, and Window Frame Requirements*

Per the International Building Code (IBC) 2015, a three hour wall should have a **three hour door assembly**.

![Table 716.5 of the IBC-2015](#)

**No Smoking**

A number of architects have asked questions about 20 minute smoke control doors, often referring to them...
as 'smoke doors' and 'fire doors' interchangeably. Some asked if 20 minute smoke doors are inherently fire rated for 20 minutes.

They are not, however most 20-minute doors would be required to have the S label because they are often located in corridors and smoke barriers. The S in the fire label below shows that this fire door is also rated for use as a smoke door assembly, and therefore has to be installed and maintained per NFPA 105 – Standard for Smoke Door Assemblies and Other Opening Protectives.

Relevant Codes & Standards

It can be challenging for design professionals to keep up with the myriad of codes and standards that impact their work.

In response to many requests, SDI has developed a new page with the Codes and Standards Applicable to Steel Doors and Frames. Each standard has a brief summary and is categorized by fire code, accessibility, sustainability, etc.

SDI’s Most Popular Content

1. Gallery of Products - See some of the doors offered by SDI members
2. Specialty Products - Information on and manufacturers of specialty door assemblies
3. ANSI/SDI A250.8 - Our most popular standard
4. Technical Data Series - All SDI standards
5. ANSI/SDI Documents - All ANSI/SDI standards
6. SDI Members - Specify SDI members. They are the only manufacturers who have proved that they meet our standards.