

REMOVE OBSTRUCTIONS FROM DOOR REQUIRED TO BE CLOSED

CODE SECTIONS

International Fire Code 2006 Edition

703.2 Opening protectives. Opening protectives shall be maintained in an operative condition in accordance with NFPA 80. 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

Any door opening into a fire rated corridor or passing through occupancy or area separation walls must also hold a fire rating, thus maintaining the integrity of the fire resistive construction. These doors are required to be kept closed or may remain open only if the doors will automatically close when a fire detection system activates.

RATIONALE

Fire doors are installed in your building to keep fire and smoke from traveling into exit corridors or from spreading into other rooms. By propping open fire doors with obstructions such as doorstops, the doors will not be able to close thus allowing fire, smoke and heat to travel into the protected areas. If open doors are critical to the operation of your business, employ a fire alarm company to install a fire alarm system that will automatically close these doors in the event of a fire.