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Rolling Fire Doors: Installation of Hoods and Covers

Proper installation of hoods and covers is an integral part of a fire door system. When a manufacturer's installation instructions are not followed, a fire door may not close automatically or may fail to close properly during a fire or may fail to provide proper fire protection even when closed. Installation guidelines are found in a publication entitled *Standard for Fire Doors and Other Opening Protectives*. This publication, approved as an ANSI (American National Standards Institute) standard, is available through the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and is known as NFPA 80.

Hoods and covers have several important functions:

1. Preventing flames from passing through the opening at the head of the door during a fire.
2. Maintaining the squareness of the door by tying the brackets together and preventing them from bending.
3. Preventing debris and other objects from causing a blockage of curtain rotation or drop-out mechanisms.
4. Providing support for a flame baffle.

Keeping these functions in mind, installation guidelines are as follows:

Note: Technical Data Sheets are information tools only and should not be used as substitutes for instructions from individual manufacturers. Always consult with individual manufacturers for specific recommendations for their products and check the applicable local regulations.

This Technical Data Sheet was prepared by the members of DASMA's Rolling Door Division Technical Committee. DASMA is a trade association comprising manufacturers of rolling doors, fire doors, grilles, counter shutters, sheet doors, and related products; upward-acting residential and commercial garage doors; operating devices for garage doors and gates, sensing devices, and electronic remote controls for garage doors and gate operators; as well as companies that manufacture or supply either raw materials or significant components used in the manufacture and installation of the Active Members' products.

Rolling Fire Door Hoods and Covers Installation Guidelines

1. **READ THE DOOR MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS.** Each manufacturer's fire door design is different. The manufacturer's instructions are by far the most important ones to follow.
2. **Use the mounting hardware provided by the door manufacturer.** No lead or plastic anchors are allowed to be used. If these anchors have been supplied, or if the anchors supplied are not applicable to the mounting conditions, contact the door manufacturer for the correct hardware.
3. **Handle hoods and covers with care.** They can be easily damaged before and during installation.
4. **Install the hood intermediate support bracket(s) if supplied by the door manufacturer.** Fire doors above a certain width, typically 12-14 feet, may require intermediate support, which prevents the hood from sagging in the middle and thus rubbing against the curtain. Intermediate support brackets should be installed so that they are the same distance apart, unless otherwise instructed by the manufacturer. All intermediate support brackets should be attached to the door header with fasteners suitable for the wall construction. Please note that a support structure may be required. The building contractor should then be notified that this structure is to be installed.
5. **Position the hood against all support brackets, and secure. Manufacturer's instructions should indicate whether the hood goes over or under the support brackets.** Install intermediate support bracket per manufacturer's instructions.
6. **Secure the hood to the wall, when required.** Use fastener spacing as shown in the door manufacturer's instructions.
7. **Check to make sure there is no contact between the curtain and the hood or support brackets, or between the curtain and the hood fasteners.** The hood should be securely in position during this check, and the door should be fully open.
8. **When required, install covers for bracket drop-out mechanisms.** These covers should not interfere with the operation of drop-out mechanisms or the fuse link cabling or chain system.
9. **When required, install the flame baffle.** FM Approvals requires flame baffles on hoods. Attachment of flame baffles and their release devices should always be in accordance with the door manufacturer's instructions. Free movement of curtain, flame baffle and drop onto curtain should be assured.
10. **When required, install the fascia or back hood.** Some fire doors need fascias or back hoods at the back of the coil to cover the curtain assembly. The door manufacturer's instructions should be followed.
11. **Perform a final check to ensure that the hood, supports, covers/shields, flame baffle, and fascia/back hood have all been installed and installed properly.** All hood components and covers must be in place for the drop test. If the drop test fails due to interference from a hood component or cover, that hood component or cover installation must be corrected to achieve a successful test.

The hood and fascia are as important as the curtain, guides and all other components of a fire door in protecting a fire wall opening; therefore, it pays to pay close attention to these components, as outlined in the instructions above in order to assure a complete, safe, and working fire door.

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