

Undercut and Clearance on Fire Rated Doors

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Eggers Industries

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Definitions:

Undercut – The dimension between the bottom of the frame opening and the bottom of the door

Clearance – The dimension between the bottom of the door and the top surface of the material underneath the door

The allowable clearance (as defined above) for labeled fire doors is limited by NFPA-80 to a maximum dimension of 3/4". In versions of NFPA-80 prior to 2007, the allowable clearance varied with the type of floor covering. These varied dimensions were replaced in the 2007 and subsequent versions by the current single dimension. A section called "Floor Coverings" defines what materials can extend through the opening. While Eggers is responsible to insure our labeled doors comply with NFPA-80, we are not responsible to determine whether the materials being used within the opening comply with the floor covering criteria.

So how do we confirm one and not the other? When we receive an order in which the undercut exceeds 3/4" the order entry system will give an "advise" message requesting confirmation from the customer that the opening will include a floor covering, sill or threshold that will meet the 3/4" clearance requirement. This confirmation will be made part of the order file.

Under this interpretation the maximum dimension for the undercut is not a fixed value, only the clearance is. This rule applies to all labeled doors, including acoustic doors.



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