



DOOR VIEWER

SIGNIFICANCE OF FIRE RATING OF GALLERY SPECIALTY'S FIRE RATED DOOR VIEWERS

ASSEMBLY VS. INDIVIDUAL CERTIFICATION

Spec writers with an eye for detail acknowledge a fire door's rating as valid only if the door components are individually certified. Although they function as an assembly, every single component must meet the minimum fire rating requirement to meet NFPA 80 Standard.

The complete fire door assembly includes:

- **Door:** Hollow metal, wood or composite
- **Frame:** Metal, wood or composite
- **Hardware:** Hinges, locks, closers etc.
- **Seals:** Door bottoms, Jamb seals, Smoke seals etc.

If one of these components is incorrect, damaged or not certified, the entire assembly becomes compromised, and its fire rating is void.

This is why professional installation and routine inspections are not just recommended; they are essential for ensuring the door performs as designed when it matters most. It therefore becomes critical for the spec writer to take a deeper look at these components by reviewing manufacturer's guide for safety and compliance.

FIRE RATED DOOR VIEWERS

One such commonly ignored component is fire-rated door viewers, majorly owing to its size.

Fire-rated door viewers are critical for maintaining a building's passive fire protection system. By allowing occupants to safely check who is on the other side of an entry door without compromising fire and smoke seals, door viewers play a key role in preventing rapid spread of toxic gases and flames. Given this, fire-rated viewers are vital for safety and code compliance more than what they are perceived.

MAINTAINING ASSEMBLY INTEGRITY

Every piece of hardware installed on a fire door is evaluated by testing agencies like UL to ensure it does not compromise the door's fire integrity. A non-rated viewer may melt, shatter, or fall out during a fire, creating a hole that allows oxygen to feed the fire and dangerous smoke to escape. Fire-rated viewers utilize specialized optical glass and fire-resistant materials to maintain the door's designed rating (often up-to 90 minutes).

PREVENTING THERMAL TRANSFER

During a fire, radiant heat can be incredibly dangerous. Fire-rated door viewers are often installed alongside intumescent materials or fire-resistant gaskets. If extreme temperatures are reached, these components expand, sealing off the viewer barrel and preventing fire or dangerous levels of radiant heat from transferring to the non-fire side of the door.



AVOIDING CODE VIOLATIONS

Building codes mandate that fire doors remain closed, latched and fully sealed in an emergency. Installing a non-rated or improperly fitted viewer will void the door's UL label. During mandatory annual fire door inspections, an unlisted viewer is an immediate deficiency. If a fire occurs, inspectors and Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs) will hold building owners accountable for unlisted, non-compliant modifications.

FIRE RATED DOOR VIEWERS OFFERED BY GALLERY SPECIALTY HARDWARE

Fire rated door viewers offered by Gallery are rated up to and including 90 minutes meeting UL requirements. They have been investigated with respect to their fire-protection characteristics. Listing the door viewers individually, thereby has guaranteed spec writers to rate door assemblies with no compromise.

MODEL#	ANGLE IN DEG	UL 10B	MAX HOURLY RATING
GSH 199-C19	160	Yes	90 min
GSH 199-C26D	160	Yes	90 min
GSH 199B-C19	180	Yes	90 min
GSH 199B-C26D	180	Yes	90 min