

CHAPTER 7 FIRE-RESISTANCE-RATED CONSTRUCTION

SECTION 714.2.3 IBC Interpretation No. 31-03 2000 Edition Issued: 12-15-03

714.2.3 Doors in corridors and smoke barriers. Fire doors required to have a minimum fire-protection rating of 20 minutes where located in corridor walls or smoke barrier walls having a fire-resistance rating in accordance with Table 714.2 shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 252 or UL 10C without the hose stream test. If a 20-minute fire door or fire door assembly contains glazing material, the glazing material in the door itself shall have a minimum fire-protection rating of 20 minutes and be exempt from the hose stream test. Glazing material in any other part of the door assembly, including transom lites and sidelites, shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 257, including the hose stream test, in accordance with Section 714.3. Fire doors shall also meet the requirements for a smoke-and draft-control door assembly tested in accordance with UL 1784 with an artificial bottom seal installed across the full width of the bottom of the door assembly. The air leakage rate of the door assembly shall not exceed 3.0 cfm per square foot (0.01524 m³/s•m²) of door opening at 0.10 inch (24.9 Pa) of water for both the ambient temperature and elevated temperature tests. Louvers shall be prohibited.

Exceptions:

1. Viewports that require a hole not larger than 1 inch (25.4 mm) in diameter through the door, have at least a 0.25-inch-thick (6.4 mm) glass disc and the holder is of metal that will not melt out where subject to temperatures of 1,700°F (927°C).
2. Corridor doors in occupancies of Group I-2 shall be in accordance with Section 407.3.1.
3. Unprotected openings shall be permitted for corridors in multi-theater complexes where each motion picture auditorium has at least one-half of its required exit or exit access doorways opening directly to the exterior or into an exit passageway.

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Q: Section 714.2.3 requires fire doors to be tested for smoke- and draft-control in accordance with UL 1784 with an artificial bottom seal. Is an artificial bottom seal required as part of the final installation of a fire door?

A: No. The artificial bottom seal is a component of the UL 1784 testing protocol and is not a requirement of the final door installation.
