Fire-rated doors are designed to slow or prevent the spread of flames, smoke, and heat during a fire, providing a barrier that saves lives and minimizes damage, and they are required by code for certain locations, such as the passage between a house and an attached garage. These doors achieve their rating by being constructed from fire-resistant materials like steel or specially treated wood and must also meet specific performance standards and include features such as self-closing and self-latching mechanisms and a fire label.

Purpose and Benefits

Life Safety:
Fire-rated doors slow the spread of fire and smoke, giving occupants more time to escape.

Property Protection:
By containing flames, they help limit damage to different areas of a building.

Code Compliance:
Building codes often mandate the use of fire-rated doors in specific areas to ensure safety.

Key Requirements

Materials:
They are made from non-combustible materials such as steel, fiberglass, or specially treated wood.

Fire-Rated Assembly:
The entire door assembly, including the frame, glazing, hinges, and latches, must be fire-rated.

Self-Closing Device:
Fire-rated doors must have a device that automatically closes and latches the door after it's opened.

Fire Label:

A fire label affixed to the door indicates the door's fire resistance rating, manufacturer, and testing certifications (like [UL 10C](#) or [NFPA 252](#)