



Quality Alert



Fire Door Closers – Compliance with Approved Documents B and M

To provide practical guidance on specifying, installing, and adjusting fire-door closers to achieve compliance with **Approved Document B (Fire Safety)** and **Approved Document M (Access)**, with reference to **BS 8300**.

Fire doors **must be fitted with an effective self-closing device** whilst **opening forces are as low as practicable** to comply with Approved Document M / BS 8300.

The door closer selection is paramount for this, but on several projects we have had to return to buildings to significantly adjust or replace door closers, after the buildings were occupied. The door closers specified by the designer were not suitable.

Door Closer Selection

Preferred Solution — Cam Action (High Efficiency) Closers

EN 1154 rated for fire doors with reduced resistance at the start of opening but a strong closing efficiency at latch.

Recommended for public buildings, healthcare, education and care settings.

Acceptable Alternative — High Efficiency Overhead Closers

Must be EN 1154 rated and opening forces **demonstrably** compliant when correctly adjusted

To achieve Document M compliance:

- Low initial opening resistance
- Smooth, consistent action throughout opening
- No heavy resistance in the early opening arc

This is **influenced by**

- Closer efficiency (cam action preferred)
- Low friction hinges
- Latch alignment and type
- Smoke and intumescent seal compression

Incorrect adjustment can result in Document M non-compliance, even when compliant hardware is specified.

Documentation to Be Provided

- EN 1154 certification
- Declaration of Performance (DoP)
- CE / UKCA marking and third-party certification
- Evidence of fire door testing as a complete door set

A compliant door closer can be specified or highlights additional (powered closer) requirements which can be addressed by the designer at Stage 4 rather than as a defect with unexpected cost after handover.

Information Required by GIR Specification:

- Door leaf width, height, and weight
- Door location and use
- Fire rating of the door
- Requirement for hold open or swing free operation
- Anticipated user profile and accessibility demand (client risk assessment if required)

☐	Brickwork / Blockwork	☐	Design	☐	DFMA (Offsite Manufacture)	☒	Doors & Windows	☐	Drainage	☐	Electrical	☐	FFE (Furnishings, Fixing & Equipment)
☒	Fire & Lightening	☐	Floor Coverings	☐	Frames & Superstructure	☐	Internal Walls, Partitions & Ceilings	☐	Joinery & General Carpentry	☐	Miscellaneous	☐	Painting
☐	Public Health (Water)	☐	Roads, Paths, Paving & Surfacing	☐	Roof	☐	Services & Systems	☐	Site Preparation Works	☐	Substructure	☐	Walling (Tiling & Finished)

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