

risk on mind's

Risk Protection Officer INSIGHTs

INSIGHT 01

As a trained Risk Protection Officer/Fire Officer, you contribute significantly to reducing risks, enhancing resilience, and safeguarding your company's long-term success.

THROUGH THIS INFORMATION SERIES, WE SUPPORT YOU IN KEEPING YOUR KNOWLEDGE CURRENT, LEARNING FROM PRACTICAL EXPERIENCES, AND CONDUCTING EFFECTIVE SELF-INSPECTIONS ON A REGULAR BASIS.

Each "Insight"-Issue includes:

- A focused topic from the field of risk management
- Practical inspection points for your facility
- Typical findings and deficiencies from real-world practice
- Recommendations for effective implementation
- Updates on relevant standards, insurance requirements, and best practices

Guiding Principle

Small deficiencies are often overlooked. Major losses frequently result from exactly these issues. Regular inspections, attention to detail, and timely corrective actions are among the most important tools of a successful Risk Protection Officer or Fire Officer.

Preview of the next issue :

RPO Insight 02: Fire Alarm Control Panel (FACP)

- Fire alarm control panel in normal operation
- Trouble and fault indications
- Covered or contaminated detectors
- Inaccessible manual call points
- Aspirating smoke detection systems
- Linear heat/smoke detectors in production areas

Fire Doors & Fire Shutters



Figure: Fire door equipped with a protective barrier to prevent impact damage.

Closed, they protect. Blocked, they fail.

Fire doors and fire shutters are essential components of a fire compartment. Their purpose is to limit the spread of fire and smoke to adjacent areas.

However, a fire door can only fulfill this function if it is able to close completely in the event of a fire. An open, blocked, or damaged fire door compromises the fire compartment, allowing smoke, heat, and fire to spread into neighboring areas.

For this reason, the RPO training emphasized two key inspection questions:

- **Is this door physically undamaged?**
- **Can the door close completely without obstruction?**

For frequently used doors, it is often impractical to continually fight against everyday operational behavior. If a door needs to remain open for operational reasons, an approved hold-open system should be installed. Such systems keep the door open during normal operations and automatically release it to close when a fire alarm is activated. Wedges, hooks, ropes, pallets, fire extinguishers, or other improvised devices are not approved hold-open systems and must not be used.

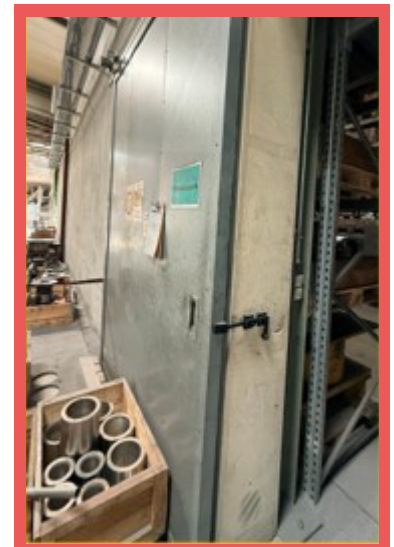


Figure: Blocked fire doors

TYPICAL FINDINGS

- Fire door held open with a wedge.
- Pallet located within the closing path of a fire shutter.
- Door closes but does not fully latch.
- Hold-open magnet is damaged or not functioning properly.
- Door leaf or frame has been deformed by forklift impact.
- Objects are hanging from the door closer.
- Cables are routed through the gap beneath or beside the door.
- Unapproved drilling, modifications, or installations have been made to the door assembly.
- A smoke detector required for the operation of a hold-open system is out of service.

THREE-MINUTE-SELF-INSPECTION

Select three fire doors or fire shutters and check:

Check following:

1. Is the closing path clear?
2. Are there any unauthorized obstructions or hold-open devices?
3. Is the door visibly free from damage?
4. Does the door close completely and latch properly?
5. If a hold-open system is installed, is it undamaged and functioning correctly?
6. Has the inspection been documented?

WHAT TO DO IF A DEFICIENCY IS FOUND?

A wedge or any other movable object should be removed immediately, provided this can be done safely.

Technical deficiencies should be documented and reported to the responsible maintenance department. If a fire door can no longer close completely, the significance of the affected fire compartment should be assessed.

Until repairs are completed, temporary compensatory measures may be required.

Repeated door blockages usually indicate an operational issue. In such cases, it should be evaluated whether the door is frequently used for passage and whether an approved hold-open system is necessary.



Figure: Damage can impair the door's ability to close and latch reliably. Fire doors should be protected against impact damage from forklifts or other vehicles.



Figure: Fire door equipped with impact protection to prevent vehicle-related damage.

RPO INSIGHT - 01 - FIREDOORS & FIRE SHUTTERS

CHECKLIST

What should the RPO check?

○ CLEAR CLOSING PATH

No goods, pallets, waste containers, or other objects should be located within the door's movement or closing area. This also applies to fire shutters. Where conveyor systems are used, products must not be able to stop within the closing path of the shutter.

○ NO UNAUTHORIZED HOLD-OPEN DEVICES

The door must not be held open by wedges, hooks, cables, or any other improvised means. Any installed hold-open system should be visibly intact and in good condition.

○ COMPLETE CLOSURE

The door should close automatically and completely from a partially open position. For double-leaf doors, the correct closing sequence should also be verified.

○ VISIBLE DAMAGE

Inspect in particular:

- Door leaf
- Frame
- Hinges
- Door
- Closer
- Seals
- Locks and latching devices
- Tracks and guide rails
- Impact protection devices
- Deformation, corrosion, loose parts, or damaged seals should be documented.

○ NO UNAUTHORIZED MODIFICATIONS

Drill holes, cable penetrations, retrofitted glazing, or other modifications may compromise the fire rating of the door. Such alterations should only be carried out following proper assessment and approval.

○ PROTECTION AGAINST IMPACT DAMAGE

Fire doors and shutters in forklift traffic areas should be protected by suitable impact protection systems.

Note: Inspections, identified deficiencies, responsible persons, target completion dates, and corrective actions should be documented in a clear and traceable manner. Follow-up audits may specifically require extracts from self-inspection logs as well as current maintenance and inspection reports for fire alarm systems (FAS), sprinkler systems, smoke and heat exhaust ventilation systems (SHEVS), and other fire protection installations.