



Fire Protection Ratings versus Fire Resistant Ratings.

New Code requirements included in the IBC, 2009 edition state that all Transom, Sidelight and Window Frames with a greater than 45-minute fire rating, comply with ASTM E119-07 and ANSI/UL263. These test methods are based on a wall test which includes (FFR) Fire Resistance Rating. A FFR consists of (3) performance criteria: fire exposure, temperature-rise, and hose stream endurance.

Prior code requirements listed product tested to UL 9, UL 10C, NFPA 252 or NFPA 257 for Fire Protection Ratings. Only certain openings in stairwell enclosures were required to be tested to ASTM E119 and ANSI/UL263 for Fire Resistant Ratings.

The construction required to meet these new code requirements is very stringent. Typical hollow metal frame profiles may not comply.

The Hollow Metal Manufacturers Association (HMMA) recommends that architects, engineers, building owners review the applicable building codes for the building design to ensure the plans and schedules reflect product requirements. Cost and lead time may need to be considered.

The architect's door schedule should clearly identify either the Fire Resistant Rating or Fire Protection Rating requirement, as well as the details of construction for each type of hollow metal product.