



DOOR PRESS

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SIDELIGHTS



By Amanda Paulsen
Communications Coordinator

VT Industries has recently updated their *Product Offering* and *Stile & Rail* brochures. These newly revised brochures look the same on the outside, but have updates to their content on the inside.

The *Product Offering* brochure has expanded information on the profiled doors including the routing profiles. The revised brochure also includes additional information on the Environmentally Friendly Doors page, with VT Industries Architectural Wood Doors being the only GREENGUARD®-certified Architectural Wood Doors available, as well as VT's listing on GreenSpec.



The revised product offering also has expanded information on VT's Wood Door jambs, and the additional stile and rail elevation (SS1042). These new offerings provide the perfect complement to VT's complete Architectural Wood Door product line. Lastly, this revised brochure shows VT's AWI Certified Quality Woodwork association, which reinforces our excellence in quality construction.

We will be sending out a mailing to OPG holders with their copy of these new brochures to update our *Order Process Guide*. ■■

VT Stile & Rail Doors are Showcased at Assisi Heights Congregational Headquarters

Of course, each project is important, but every once in a while an opportunity comes along to really showcase your best. That's what happened when the Franciscan Sisters of Rochester, Minn., decided to upgrade the doors at Assisi Heights.



Installed door at Assisi Heights.



Exterior view of Assisi Heights.

The grand building is home and headquarters to the Rochester community of an order of Catholic nuns. The ornate Italian architecture, with marble pillars, red tile roofs and golden walls, was built in 1955 and modeled after the basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy.

'THE SISTERS AND EVERYONE DOWN THERE THINK THE DOORS ARE BEAUTIFUL.'

— COMBS

Its residence areas, chapels and public gathering rooms are home to some 350 nuns. About 125 of the nuns are retired and many live independently. There are assisted living and nursing care facilities available to the residents. Over the last century, the Sisters have served the Order and community as nurses, teachers and hospital administrators.

A HISTORICAL SHOWCASE

The complex holds historical significance that extends around the world. In 1877, the order of nuns settled in Rochester. Following a devastating tornado in 1883, they resolved to open the first hospital in Southeast Minnesota. St. Mary's Hospital, a 27-bed general hospital, opened in 1889. Dr. William W. Mayo directed the facility that was the predecessor to today's Mayo Clinic, which was built in 1914 when the Mayo brothers outgrew the confines of St. Mary's Hospital.

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INDUSTRY UPDATE

Certified Inspector Training to Focus on Annual Inspection of Fire Door Assemblies



Beginning late this summer, Intertek and the Door and Hardware Institute (DHI) will offer a Certified Inspector Program designed to train individuals on how to conduct annual inspections of fire rated door assemblies. These annual inspections are required under the 2007 edition of the *National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 80: Standard for Fire Doors and Other Opening Protectives*. The following industry update provides an overview of the new certification program, based on information provided by Jerry S. Heppes, Sr., CAE, Chief Executive Officer, The Door and Hardware Institute.

What is the Certified Inspector Program?

This certification will be based on successful completion of DHI's Fire Door Assembly Inspection Class (FDAIC), which is currently in development. Upon successful completion of the FDAIC and other prerequisite classes and exams, the individual will receive a certified inspector card. DHI will administer the educational requirements while Intertek will manage the certification component. In addition, DHI and Intertek will be launching a corporate certification program to

companies that will be conducting inspections. These companies will have to maintain certain standards and employ certified inspectors in order to receive the Intertek certification.

What will the Fire Door Assembly Inspection Class (FDAIC) involve?

The FDAIC will focus on conducting actual fire door inspections. Also, the student will become familiar with the inspection guidelines and forms to be utilized in undertaking an inspection. In order to take the FDAIC, an applicant will be required to have completed several prerequisite courses. Currently, DHI offers several certification programs, such as Architectural Hardware Consultant (AHC), Certified Door Consultant (CDC), Electrified Hardware Consultant (EHC) and Architectural Openings Consultant (AOC). The new inspection certification requirements will not be as difficult as these existing certifications, as the knowledge and experience requirements are not as rigorous.

What types of doors are covered in FDAIC training?

The *NFPA 80* applies to all fire rated door assemblies, including swinging doors with builders hardware,

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VT Stile & Rail Doors are Showcased at Assisi Heights Congregational Headquarters

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Installed door at Assisi Heights.

The Sisters wanted to update the doors in the magnificent building and determined that only a custom finish on stile and rail doors would maintain the architectural standards. VT sales rep Bill Combs recognized the opportunity and rose to the challenge.

"They had two different rooms they were showcasing as a finished unit, so we supplied doors for the mock units, and they selected VT as the preferred manufacturer for the project," said Combs.

'IT'S VERY VALUABLE FOR US TO SAY THAT WE HAVE 360 DOORS AT ASSISI HEIGHTS.'
— COMBS

Teamwork played a key role in this VT success story. Combs credited Scot Korish, senior project manager, Kendell Doors and Hardware in Winona, Minn., for the referral that invited VT Industries to compete for the project.

"Scot was instrumental in helping VT and me. He definitely was a big part of the reason we got this project," Combs said.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project required 362 VT stile and rail doors for residential entryways and bathrooms. Combs described the custom finish as a Butterscotch shade on Maple, selected to match a sample supplied by the Sisters. About 50 of the doors had a 20-minute fire rating and another 20 were 90-minute fire doors.

Hardware requirements included concealed vertical rods in some pairs of doors used in corridors, cylindrical locks on entry doors and a few monitoring mortise locks with electric strikes were specified.



Exterior of Assisi Heights.

Hollow metal frames were recessed into the wall and framed with crown molding. Next to each framed doorway was a window case with glass doors where the room's occupant could place photographs and personal memorabilia.

Beyond the satisfaction of a job well done that matches the high architectural standards of the fine building, what does working on such a grand project mean to VT's Combs?



Interior hallway in Assisi Heights.

"We are definitely letting people know that Assisi Heights is a big stile and rail project for VT when we make architectural calls. For architects, we include that as a project reference. It's very valuable for us to say that we have 360 doors at Assisi Heights, which is related to the Mayo Clinic. That says something," Combs acknowledged.

And most important, Combs added, "The Sisters and everyone down there think the doors are beautiful." ■■

IN THE NEWS

Eggershausen Joins VT Industries



Stefan "Eggi" Eggershausen.

VT Industries Inc. welcomes Stefan "Eggi" Eggershausen as its new territory sales manager for Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and El Paso.

"Eggi" has over 15 years of experience in the door industry. "He is a wealth of door knowledge with in-depth expertise of veneers, the construction of wood doors, the detailing of doors, and the architectural and construction industry," announced Tim Petersen, national sales manager.

His technical knowledge of doors is a result of working as an assistant who machined doors, installed wood mouldings and louvers, and detailed door orders. He also has experience as an inside sales representative and in territory sales management. He belongs to the Denver Chapter of the Construction Specification Institute.

"We welcome him to his new role with VT Industries," Petersen added. ■■

Certified Inspector Training to Focus on Annual Inspection of Fire Door Assemblies

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overhead rolling fire doors, horizontal-sliding fire doors and fire rated access doors. However, this initial program will only address swinging doors with builders hardware.

Why are prerequisite courses required before taking the FDAIC course?

Prerequisites help to better prepare students for the FDAIC course and exam. In order to be eligible to take this exam, students must satisfy these classes by successfully completing them or by passing the online Challenge Exams. These prerequisites can be completed in any order prior to applying for the certification exam. DHI will be announcing the prerequisite courses in the Spring.

What are the NFPA's qualifications for inspectors?

There are no specific qualifications for inspectors within the NFPA standard; however, it is generally understood that most individuals should have a broad product-application knowledge and understanding of fire rated door assemblies. DHI has been conducting well-respected training classes for the architectural openings industry for more than 45 years.

Why is this certification important?

When local fire marshals and authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs) see the Intertek "certified

inspector" label, they will understand that a well-trained inspector has reviewed the assembly. The end result of this inspection being: (1) time saved, (2) a cost effective process for property managers and building owners and most importantly, (3) a vast safety improvement in fire door openings for building occupants and the public in general.

Where can we find more information about the Fire Door Assembly Inspection Class?

Information will be posted on the DHI Web site, <http://www.dhi.org/education/>, as it becomes available. Or interested individuals can contact Karen Allen, Building Products program manager for Intertek ETL SEMKO, at her e-mail address, karen.allen@intertek.com.

What is the role of Intertek in this certification program?

Intertek Group is part of a task force of volunteers assembled by the DHI Board of Governors to help form the structure for the fire door inspection process. Intertek is recognized as a global leader in testing, inspection and certification services, operating in 294 laboratories and 530 offices in 102 countries throughout the world. The building products group of Intertek issues the well-known proprietary Warnock Hersey (WHI) Mark. Fire doors, frames and fire resistance products are all products certified by Warnock Hersey. ■■

VT Architectural Doors Support Safe and Healthy Schools



By Tim Petersen, LEED AP
National Sales Manager

VT architectural doors are the only architectural wood doors that are GREENGUARD-certified, having met acceptable GREENGUARD Environmental Institute (GEI) indoor air quality criteria based on testing conducted by Air Quality Sciences Inc. based in Atlanta, Georgia. This quarterly testing is conducted in accordance with environmental chamber testing guidelines for ASTM Small and Full-Scale Chamber Standards, D5116-97 and D6670; The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) protocol and the State of Washington.

The tests monitored VT doors for emissions of total volatile organic compounds (TVOCs), formaldehyde, total aldehydes and other individual volatile organic compounds over a one-week period.

Veneer and laminate particleboard core doors from VT Industries will soon be certified as meeting the GEI Product Emission Standard for Children and Schools. The GEI created the new standard as an extension of the established GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certification Program, which certifies low emitting products for various industries.

LOW EMITTING PRODUCTS

The GREENGUARD Standard for Children and Schools sets rigorous product emission criteria for manufacturers of building materials, furnishings, finishes and cleaning products. The standard represents an easily accessible resource where school administrators, facility professionals, parents and teachers can find low emitting products and materials for use in daycare facilities and schools.

The certification program was recently recognized by California's Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) as a strategy for supporting the

CHPS Best Practices Manual for K-12 schools. Organized in 2000, the CHPS is a collaboration between government agencies, utilities and nonprofits that are working to improve the quality of California's schools. CHPS offers a Best Practices Manual to assist architects, engineers and school administrators in designing and building schools that offer an enhanced learning environment for children.

Under this agreement, the GREENGUARD Children and Schools Product Certification Program complies with the State of California's Department of Health Services Standard Practice (CA Section 01350) for testing chemical emissions from building products used in schools. CHPS credits are offered for GREENGUARD Children and Schools certified products that meet the testing method requirements and emission limits defined in the agreement between CHPS and GEI.



VT door installed in an elementary school.

According to Charles Eley, executive director of CHPS, "The addition of GREENGUARD Children and Schools Certified Products provides design professionals and school administrators with a broader selection of healthier, more environmentally sensitive products for their schools. Including GEI in our efforts furthers our mission by providing products that have been certified through a comprehensive and rigorous program."

GREEN DOORS

VT Industries supports the need to bring environmentally responsible products to the marketplace, from our commitment to water-based stains and UV-cured topcoats with no release of VOCs into the atmosphere, to our use

of engineered wood components from quickly renewable managed forests.

Architectural flush wood doors made from FSC-certified stave lumber, particleboard, Structural Composite Lumber (SCL) and agrifiber cores can assist in achieving Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) credits in a number of categories, such as recycled content, regional materials, low emitting materials and rapidly renewable materials.

Agrifiber cores made from 100 percent recycled agrifiber content meet or exceed the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/A208.1 Grade 1-LD-2 for wood particleboard. Cores made from agrifiber cores have no added urea formaldehyde resins.

About GEI GEI is a non-profit organization that establishes chemical emissions standards for indoor products, environments and buildings. The GREENGUARD Certification Program identifies acceptable levels of chemical emissions, determines the most rigorous testing procedures and then certifies products and materials that meet the organization's stringent criteria. Certified products under the Children and Schools Standard are listed in the online product guide at no charge located at www.greenguard.org.

About CHPS Founded in 2000, the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) is a non-profit organization that strives to facilitate the design of high performance schools: environments that are healthy, comfortable, energy, resource and water efficient, safe, secure, adaptable, and easy to operate and maintain. For more information about CHPS, log onto www.chps.net or call 877.642.CHPS. ■■

VTquickship Program

VTquickship Program Provides Short Lead Times

The VTquickship program provides customers with the shortest lead times from VT Industries.

The VTquickship option is available to VTonline® users. To gain access to the VTonline program, customers must contact their sales representative or e-mail VT Industries at ask_vtonline@vtindustries.com to set up training.

A new flyer examines the features and benefits of the VTquickship program that allows up to 100 doors to be shipped within 10 business days.

The VTquickship flyer covers details of the program, including stock veneers and laminates, factory finishing, core selection, door ratings, accessories, machining and available freight options.

"The quickship program helps VT distributors meet the needs of their customers, which leads to increased customer satisfaction and return business," stated Pam Rohlk, customer service center manager. "VTquickship allows distributors to accommodate projects with the tightest deadlines and achieve advantages over others in the industry with longer lead times." ■■



Fire Marshals Seek a Balanced Approach to Fire Protection



By Tom Hoffert
Technical Development Manager

Following is an update in the building code arena involving the active vs. passive fire protection controversy. VT applauds the stance the California Building Standards Commission (BSC) has taken in adopting and amending the 2006 International Building Code (IBC) to include both active (sprinklers) and passive (fire doors) fire protection methods in lieu of relying only on sprinklers, which may or may not suppress the fire due to disruption in water supply, mechanical failure or lack of proper maintenance. VT would encourage other state code officials to consider this balanced approach to fire protection.

The State Fire Marshal in California is responsible for proposing and adopting fire codes and standards for nearly all types of buildings constructed throughout the state. These responsibilities include fire and life safety regulations in the California Building Code, California Fire Code, California Mechanical Code, California Plumbing Code, California Electric Code and California Historical Building Code.

These documents are also referred to as Title 24, California Code of Regulations. The process incorporates much public participation and is guided by the State Building Standards Law.

2007 BUILDING CODE

The California BSC has voted unanimously to adopt the 2006 IBC, with amendments, for use as the 2007 California Building Code. The new code, which becomes effective in the summer of 2008, includes both active and passive fire prevention methods.

'WE THINK WE'VE GONE TOO FAR WITH THE TRADE-OFFS IN THE CODES, AND WE'RE SEEKING TO REVERSE THIS TREND.'
— BURNS

Based on a review of data from various sources by building and fire officials, the BSC recognized the benefits of automatic fire sprinkler protection in buildings, as well as the need for a balanced approach to fire protection. For this reason, they decided against the elimination of redundancy from the code and an over-reliance on fire sprinkler systems.

The new code takes into account the potential for sprinkler failure due to a disruption in water supply, mechanical failure, lack of proper maintenance, human error or temporary disruptions to sprinkler systems that occur during typical remodeling and tenant improvement projects.

The code also reflects the vulnerability of sprinkler systems to explosions, vehicle accidents and seismic events. After every major seismic event in California, reductions in the water supply have resulted, rendering an automatic sprinkler system ineffective if a fire were to occur.



VT fire rated doors are available with ratings up to 90-minute.

SPRINKLER RELIABILITY

According to the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA), between 35 million and 40 million fire sprinklers are installed each year in the United States. This usage represents a four-fold increase in the use of sprinklers in the past 25 years, the association reported. Data from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has demonstrated that property loss and life loss are reduced in buildings protected with an automatic sprinkler system.

An analysis of NFPA data by William E. Koffel, P.E. indicated that sprinklers fail to operate at the rate of one in every six fires that are large enough to activate a sprinkler. Koffel, who is the president of a fire protection engineering and code consulting firm, actively participates in the model code development processes of the International Code Council and the NFPA, and has served on numerous committees within each process.

In a paper titled *The Reliability of Automatic Sprinkler Systems*, Koffel reported, "Whether one is convinced that the operational reliability of automatic sprinkler systems is 84 percent (fails once in every six fires) or some other value, the

NFPA data seems to indicate that the commonly stated reliability of automatic sprinkler systems in the range of 96 percent (fails once in every 25 fires) is overstating the operational reliability of sprinkler systems and therefore overstating the overall reliability of sprinkler systems."

In 2006, *USA Today* cited a string of four sprinkler recalls that identified 45 million defective sprinkler heads in the past seven years — a number equal to about one in every 10 sprinklers installed since 1991.

BACKUP PROTECTION

"Beginning in the 1970s," *USA Today* reported, "state and local codes gave property owners who installed sprinklers more and more leeway to scale back on other safeguards like smoke alarms and fire-resistant construction materials."

The newspaper quoted New York State Fire Administrator James Burns, president of the National Association of State Fire Marshals, who said, "We think we've gone too far with the trade-offs in the codes, and we're seeking to reverse this trend."

The fire marshals are taking their concerns to The International Code Council and the NFPA. "The codes of both groups include trade-offs that allow buildings with sprinklers to go without some of the fire safety protections required for buildings that lack sprinklers," according to *USA Today*.

Today, fire marshals and other fire safety groups are campaigning for code changes so that buildings with sprinklers would be required to have more backup protections, such as smoke alarms and flame-resistant walls, the newspaper stated. ■■

DOOR PRESS TRIVIA QUESTION

Congratulations to Mark Hoyer of Doors Inc. for correctly answering the question: "How often must fire rated door assemblies be inspected under the 2007 edition of NFPA 80?" Mark won a VT prize for coming up with the correct answer, which was "annually".

QUESTION: True or False? Intertek and the Door and Hardware Institute (DHI) will offer a Certified Inspector Program designed to train individuals on how to conduct annual inspections of fire rated door assemblies.

Answer this question based on this issue of *Door Press* for a chance to win a VT prize. Place the answer on an index card with your complete contact information, or the back of your business card, and mail to the address listed. Entries must be postmarked by May 15, 2007. Limit one entry per person, and one winning per year.

Door Press Trivia
Attn: Amanda Paulsen
VT Industries Inc.
P.O. Box 490
Holstein, IA 51025

VT employees and sales representatives are excluded from this promotion.