Fire Door Gap Gauge

Why We Used It…

- The correct installation of Fire Doors is essential to maintain the fire integrity of a building
- The door gap is generally checked using a 3mm packer, However, this method only checks the front edge of the Door / Frame
- Sometimes door frames are installed with packers twisting the frame to create a 3mm door gap at the front face but in reality the gap is larger than 3mm at the intumescent strip

What it is…

- A 4mm Brass rod has been machined to create a ’Fire Door Gap’ measuring tool
- The end of the tool has a flat face of 2.5mm allowing the tool to be inserted into the door gap
- Once inserted if the tool rotates the door gap is 4mm or greater

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Was it Successful?…

- Very simple to use and effective in identifying door gaps in excess of 3mm.
- As the tool is specifically manufactured it can be calibrated unlike the use of plastic packers to check door gaps which can vary in thickness and may not have flat faces
- This tool ensures not only the front face of the door / frame have the correct gap but the gap is correct over the whole width of the frame.

The Next steps…

- Manufacture more gauges and promote their use across other projects

An innovative concept which will assist in checking and improving quality of Fire Door installation

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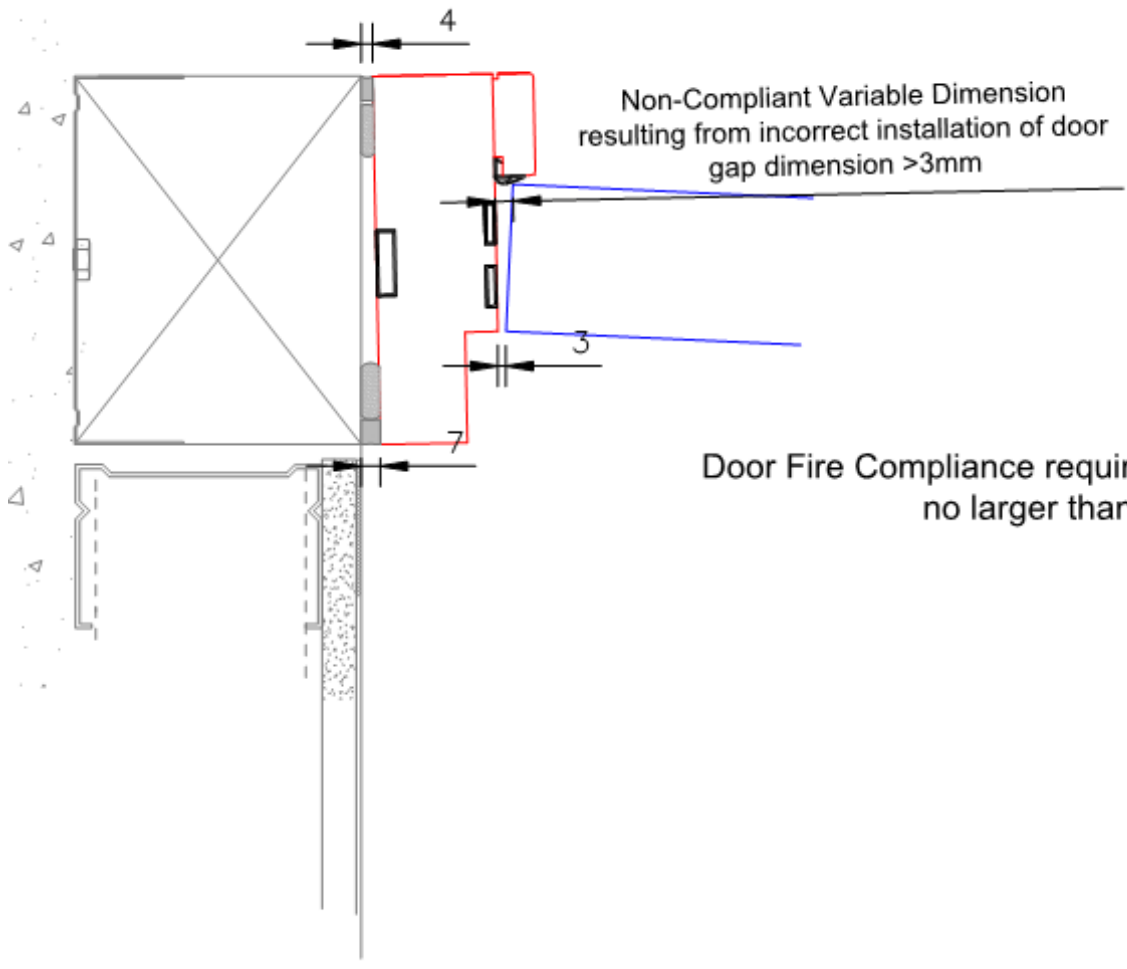
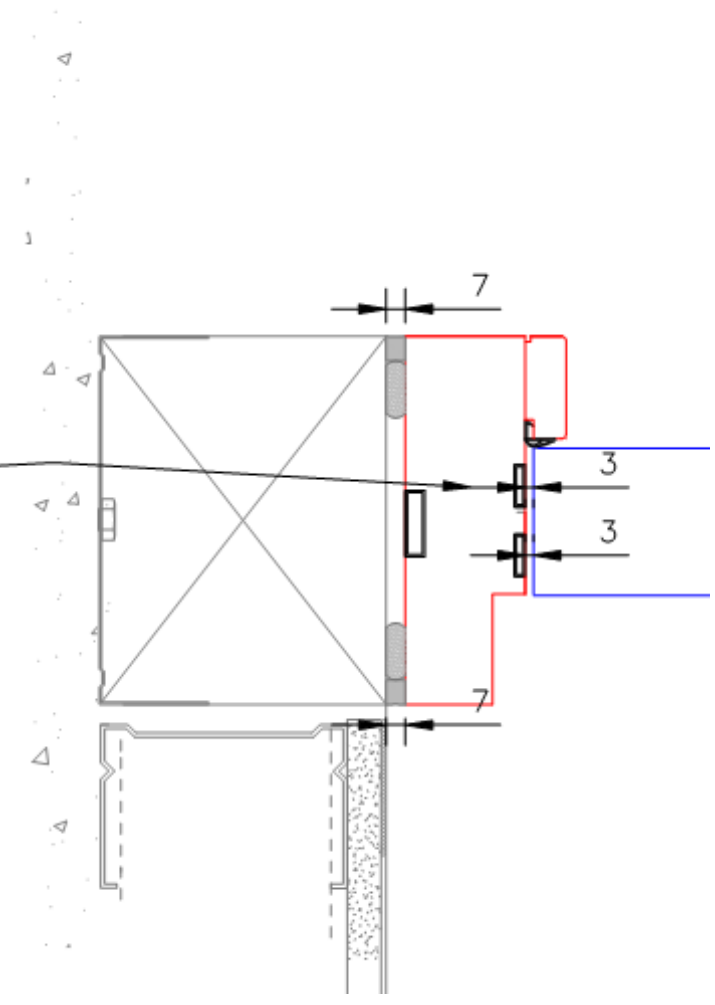
Illustration of how door frames can be installed to create a 3mm gap at the front edge



Door Fire Compliance requires to achieve
no larger than 3mm packer



Extract from an e-mail received from the Project Clerk of Works

- This fire door gap gauge is ideal for checking gaps between the fire door and frame against the fire certificate. This is to ensure smoke seals will perform correctly in the event of a fire as they must fill this gap when the door is closed.

- Often on site we have become too reliant on using plastic packers to measure these gaps. These are not intended for this function and of course have not been calibrated.

- The most common cause of fire related deaths and injury is smoke inhalation, rather than the flames we might imagine.

- If we get this installation wrong, there is risk of

    - - Danger for the users of the building and possible loss of life.
    - - Risk to reputation, and of prosecution with fines or imprisonment.

- To make achieving compliance easier means we can reduce time and cost associated with abortive works. Benefitting from the application of site experience which has been incorporated into its design, this gauge is a welcome addition to the often challenging task of installing various products in accordance with the manufacturers instructions and then self certifying them accordingly.

Kind regards,

Doug