Dorgard is a safe, legal and cost-effective device used to retain fire doors open

Why do fire doors have to be kept shut?
Closing fire doors and keeping them closed can prevent a fire from spreading freely and rapidly, decreasing the risk to lives and property.

When a fire breaks out, fire doors protect the escape routes. They compartmentalise and contain the fire as well as reducing the draught in the building which helps to prevent oxygen reaching and feeding the fire.

In order to play this critical role, fire doors have to be kept shut to preserve the integrity of the compartmented escape routes.

It can be illegal and is dangerous to hold fire doors using non approved methods such as:
- Door wedges
- Waste paper bins
- Fire Extinguishers

Your Fire Risk Assessment for the building is likely to state that in the event of a fire all fire doors will be shut.

Why is it dangerous to wedge fire doors open?
In the event of fire, this hazardous practice will render fire doors useless, which could result in loss of life, property damage, insurance invalidation and possible prosecution.

I have fire doors installed in a busy corridor and I need to hold some of them open, what shall I do?
You have three safe and legal options:

- Electromagnetic overhead door closer wired to your fire alarm system
- Electromagnetic door holder either wired to a conventional fire alarm system or activated by radio waves if the fire alarm works with radio signal
- Dorgard is acoustically activated by the sound of a fire alarm

Safe
Dorgard is a reliable acoustic device that holds the fire doors open in any selected position and releases them automatically when the fire alarm sounds.

Dorgard self tests every seven days. If the fire doors are being held open during the self test, Dorgard will release them. Should Dorgard detect an internal fault, it will sound a warning tone and will not operate as a hold open device.

Legal
Propping a fire door open can be illegal. Dorgard enables you to hold your fire door open in compliance with the Fire Safety Order 2005 and Fire (Scotland) Act 2005.

Dorgard is manufactured and tested in accordance with European Standard BS EN 1155 and designed in line with the Equality Act by improving access for less abled users.

“In 30 years of fire fighting, I have seen more lives saved by fire doors than anything else”
Bob Graham, Senior Fire Officer
Cost effective

Dorgard is a battery operated device simply fitted to the bottom of fire doors. Therefore it does not require complex and expensive wiring to the fire alarm system.

Note: Great care should be taken to ensure that items are not placed or left in front of a fire door held open by Dorgard. This could prevent the fire door closing after Dorgard has been activated.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does Dorgard only operate at one fixed decibel level?

No. Dorgard is designed to listen for sounds in excess of 65dB, which is the minimum sound level for all existing fire alarms to comply with BS 5839.

Dorgard is adjustable (within certain limits) to ensure it responds to your fire alarm. If Dorgard still does not respond to your fire alarm then it is likely that the fire alarm installed is not reaching the minimum prescribed sound level of 65dB. In this situation, the responsible person on site should be notified and appropriately, remedial action of the alarm is required. In these circumstances Dorgard batteries must be removed and the label ‘Do Not Use’ should be placed over the unit and not be removed until the fire alarm sound level is compliant with BS 5839. At a general noise level of 80dB (sound level) Dorgard will release to all sounds. This facility has been built in as a safety feature. Should the noise level in your premises exceed 80dB it is unlikely that you would hear a 65dB alarm.

Why does Dorgard not close immediately when the fire alarm sounds?

Dorgard is powered by batteries. In order to preserve the battery life, it only ‘listens’ once every four seconds, and it needs to ‘hear’ a continuous sound for at least ten seconds before it operates. The other advantage of the ‘delay’ is that it gives any person within the physical ‘operating limits’ of the door a chance to hear the fire alarm and clear the door before it actually shuts.

Is Dorgard a ‘fail-safe’ product?

No product is truly ‘fail-safe’. However, Dorgard is designed to ‘fail-to-safe’ when the batteries have reached a low voltage (predetermined by Dorgard) or when the battery compartment is tampered with or opened. In these events the plunger will automatically release and Dorgard will no longer work as a hold open device. In addition to this release, a series of flashes will be emitted by the LED and an audible warning tone will be sounded until the batteries are completely exhausted, removed or replaced with new ones.

How can Dorgard be ‘fail-safe’ if there is a failure of the fire alarm system?

The vast majority of fire alarms have to have emergency/back-up power supplies, then, if there is a fault, the system should continue to operate. Within the risk-assessment for the building and the fire routine, there should be an instruction that when the fire alarm fails, all hold open devices on the fire doors should be de-activated and not used until the fire alarm system is re-instated. (Dorgard batteries should be removed and the label ‘Do Not Use’ should be placed over all units and not be removed until the fire alarm system is fully operational).

Should employees be made aware of Dorgard once they’ve been fitted?

Yes, it is important that all employees are informed of new safety devices that have been installed in the building and this applies to Dorgard. Everyone should understand its use and operation and it should be included into the fire routine of the workplace.

Call 0800 32 1666

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