



**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL  
BUILDING STANDARDS**

**POLICY NOTE BST - 019**

**Self Closing Fire Doors  
Controlled or Un-controlled**

**Key Contact**

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## **1. Introduction**

Appendix A to the technical handbooks provides definitions for a number of terms and phrases used in the handbooks.

In relation to the closure of fire doors where there is a need for them to close automatically;-

**'Self-closing fire door** means a *fire door*, fitted to close automatically from any angle of swing.'

## **2. Policy Decision**

Any closer used on a fire door, required by the technical handbooks or alternative guidance (where no alternative definition of self-closing fire door is given) which is used to determine compliance with the building standards should meet the definition above.

In relation to controlled or un-controlled closers, the guidance in clause 2.2.9 in Section 2 – Fire of the technical handbooks notes that self closing doors should be installed in accordance with the recommendations in the Code of Practice, 'Hardware for Fire and escape Doors' Issue 2, June 2006, published by the Door and Hardware Federation and the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers.

The Code of Practice notes the following among other criteria for self closing fire doors

*'Spring hinges, which are purely spring urged and do not control the closing speed, are unable to comply with BS EN 1154 and therefore should NOT be used for fire doors (see section 3.3.7).'*

Uncontrolled closers are therefore clearly NOT suitable for use in self closing fire doors as they cannot be guaranteed to close the door automatically from any angle of swing.

Door closers required by Section 2 should have certified compliance with BS EN 1154 or equivalent.

This policy has been endorsed within the consortia grouping of Highland, Orkney, Shetland Islands Councils and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and any deviation should be discussed with the Building Standards Service of the Local Authority responsible for the area in which the work is to be carried out.