
TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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Caution Regarding Periodic Testing of Dynamic Curtain Type Fire Dampers:

All fire dampers require periodic inspection and testing as part of a regular maintenance program. Consult your local building code as to whether they have a required maintenance and testing schedule. Most local jurisdictions refer to NFPA 80 which states that fire dampers should be inspected and tested 1 year after installation, then every 4 years, except in hospitals, where the frequency is every 6 years.

Dynamic curtain type fire dampers (as well as some other models) utilize constant force, high torque springs to assist the blades with closure. **Reopening dynamic and other spring assisted dampers may be extremely difficult due to spring tension and in some cases, virtually impossible.** If it has been determined that the damper is impossible or impractical to test and reopen due to such factors as access restrictions due to smaller damper size or location, it is suggested that the damper simply be thoroughly examined to ensure there is nothing blocking the blade track that would prevent the blades from closing (such as installation screws, construction debris or other contaminants) and that the frame remains square in the sleeve.

For initial installation testing, it may be necessary to test the damper **before connecting any ductwork in order to provide maximum access. Be sure the blades drop evenly**, as the springs may bind and the damper may not close properly if one side of the blades falls before the other.