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Cornell TranzForm Fire Door

Pocket Cover Door Guidelines

Pocket cover doors are not required, but may be used to aesthetically conceal the Cornell TranzForm Fire doors. Cornell does not manufacture or install the pocket cover doors. Therefore, they should be specified in a separate specification section. Unless specifically required by the "Authority Having Jurisdiction", pocket doors do not have to be fire-rated. Solid-core pocket doors are preferable for reasons of durability. The door thickness and covering material is at the discretion of the designer. Many different covering materials have been successfully used including the following: plastic laminates, wood veneers, vinyl, paint, bronze, and stainless steel. However, if the aggregate thickness of the pocket door exceeds 2", the additional thickness must be added to the calculation of the pocket depth.

Some basic criteria for the successful design of the pocket cover doors are listed below:

1. Doors must be side hinge swinging and must swing at least ninety (90) degrees. When in the open position, pocket doors may not encroach on the 18" clear minimum opening width required for the pocket. Designing "notches" on either side of the pocket opening to accommodate the cover door thickness will prevent this (see *Pocket Cover Door Detail*).
2. Cover doors must be operable with less than 50 lbs. of lateral force. As the Cornell TranzForm Fire door is activated, the leading edge will make contact with cover door and push it open. Fifty (50) lbs. is the normal operating force required for egress-style swinging doors and only if the cover door is unusually heavy would special considerations need to be taken.
3. When activated, pocket doors should remain in the open position so as not to obstruct the path of the TranzForm Fire door when it is closing.
Cornell recommends specifying either (1) a spring-action hinge such as the Hager #1257 (with reversed spring-action) to hold the cover door open when activated, **or** (2) a continuous hinge such as a Stanley #314.
 - (1) The reversed spring-action in the Hager #1257 butt hinge makes the cover door self-opening rather than self-closing. Cover doors without spring-action hinges may swing back into the operating path of the TranzForm Fire door and cause damage or obstruct emergency operation.
 - (2) For aesthetic considerations, a continuous hinge is preferable because it does not protrude beyond the face of the pocket cover door and therefore presents a "hingelless" appearance. When a continuous hinge is used, however, a bumper is required. The bumper prevents the pocket door from swinging back into the operating path of the TranzForm Fire door. Cornell does not provide bumpers, but the recommended bumper design is shown on the previous page detail drawing. This bumper adds 1" to the pocket depth requirement.
4. A magnetic catch not to exceed thirty (30) lbs. can be used to keep the pocket cover doors in the closed position when the Cornell TranzForm Fire door is not in use. Positive latches such as hooks or throw bolts are not permitted because they prevent the Cornell TranzForm Fire door from pushing the cover door open during operation.
5. A doorframe is not required although one may be used. However, for aesthetic considerations, a "frame-less" design may be preferable because it leaves only two (2) slight reveals at the door edges and provides a less noticeable pocket door installation.