

September 10, 2010

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Serenity Door?

Graham's Serenity Door line is used in the market space commonly known as "acoustical" or "sound" doors. Comprised of a variety of door and seal set combinations, our Serenity Doors achieve a range of STC ratings from STC 29 through STC 46. The primary application is in an opening that requires sound reduction between one area and another.

What does STC stand for?

STC stands for Sound Transmission Class. It is the industry-accepted method to compare the sound reduction effectiveness of various architectural door constructions.

What do the numbers after "STC" mean?

The higher the number, the higher the level of sound reduction. For instance, an STC 46 door opening blocks more sound than an STC 31 door opening. The STC rating is selected based on the level of acoustical performance required for the application under consideration.

What is the difference between operable and inoperable ratings?

An inoperable rating is determined by testing a door that is fully sealed to the frame perimeter (caulked in place), eliminating any sound leaks. While this type of test can be helpful in determining the acoustical performance of the door itself, it does not account for a real-world application where the door will open and close. A more realistic method is to test for an operable rating, in which a door is installed in a frame using hinges, latching hardware, and a gasketing system (i.e. seal set). The operable rating identifies the acoustical performance of the assembly as would be seen in practical application. All of Graham's published ratings are operable ratings.

What kind of seals and/or gasketing is needed?

Each operable STC rating has been achieved in a test lab by pairing a door with a specific seal set. Each seal set includes gasketing on the frame and either a threshold or door bottom. This combination of sealing components hinders sound from travelling between the door/frame and door/floor clearances. The seal set needed to achieve each STC rating will be provided as part of your acoustical door order. For example, an order for an STC 35 will be priced to include the seal set, and the seal set will drop ship to your ship-to location. This allows you to be confident you'll get the correct seal set for the STC rating you need.

Are Serenity Doors available with FSC Chain of Custody certification?

Not at this time.

Are Serenity Doors fire rated?

Most of Graham's Serenity Doors are available with a 20 minute fire rating (Neutral Pressure or Positive Pressure Category A). Additionally, the STC 29 door can be provided with a 45 minute fire rating. Labeling authority is not yet available for other fire ratings.

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Do Serenity Doors contain lead?

No. Graham's Serenity Doors perform at the published operable ratings without the use of lead.

Can I order a Serenity Door with cutout only?

No. It is necessary for the lite to be factory installed in order to maintain the STC rating. Additionally, our acoustical cores are constructed in a manner that requires lites to be factory installed in order to maintain product integrity.

Can I get an STC 46 door with a lite?

Graham continues to expand our acoustical capabilities, but it takes time to test the variety of configurations that suit our customer base. Since we have not yet tested a door/seal set assembly with a lite to achieve an STC 46 rating, we cannot guarantee that our STC 46 door will perform at the STC 46 level if a lite is installed in the door. We would be more than happy to build such a door using the same acoustical construction as our STC 46 door, but without the acoustical label that certifies the rating.

What STC door can I get with a lite?

STC ratings of 35 and 41 are available with a factory installed lite. The visible area of this lite can be up to and including 252 in² for non-fire rated applications, or up to and including 100 in² with a 20 minute fire rating. If a different STC rating is required with a lite, Graham can build the door per our acoustical construction and install the lite, but an STC label will not be provided.

What species of wood are available on Graham's Serenity Doors?

Any commercially available specie can be ordered for our Serenity Doors. Medium Density Overlay and Primed Hardboard are also an option for STC 29, 30, and 31.

Can I use standard hinges for the Serenity Door?

Yes, our Serenity Doors have been designed such that standard 4 ½" and 5" hinges can be used.

Can I order a pair of Serenity Doors and maintain the STC rating?

The STC rating is maintained for a pair of doors when a mullion is used. If a mullion is not available, Graham can still build your doors using our acoustical construction, but we will not be able to put an STC label on the door.

Can I use a rim exit device on a Serenity Door?

Exit devices tend to impact the seal set gasketing that goes around the acoustical opening's frame. In order to determine what the impact to the STC rating is, we need to perform acoustical testing on doors with exit devices. In the meantime, if you have an exit application that needs an acoustical door, Graham can build the door using our acoustical construction, but without the acoustical label.



Graham
wood doors

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