

Seattle Fire Prevention Division

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Damper Testing Requirements in Seattle

What are the Code Requirements for Testing of Dampers?

For years, the International Fire Code and NFPA standards have required fire dampers, smoke dampers, and combination fire/smoke dampers to be tested every four years (or six years for hospitals), and repaired timely if deficiencies are found. In the early 2020's, the State of Washington adopted [RCW 19.27.710](#) that mirrored the existing provisions.

To track compliance with these requirements, in 2024 many jurisdictions in King County, including Seattle, began requiring a report of damper testing to be provided to the local Fire Department. Many jurisdictions, including Seattle, chose to use The Compliance Engine (TCE) (www.thecomplianceengine.com) as a third-party system to receive these reports. As of late 2024, we are working with contractors and building owners to ensure damper testing is reported to us.

What Elements of Inspection and Maintenance Are Reported to the Fire Department? The TCE report template can be reviewed here: www.seattle.gov/fire/business-services/systems-testing#systemstestingforms

Can I Divide My Damper Testing Across Four Years Instead of Doing 100% Every Fourth Year? Yes, SFD can approve a testing program that converts the requirement that all dampers are tested once every four years, to a plan that allows one quarter of the dampers in the building to be tested each year, so that at the end of every four years, all dampers have been tested.

What Steps Should I Take to Request Approval to Move Toward Annually Testing 25% of Dampers? To request approval for an annual testing program for dampers, the building owner or the contractor representing them should contact SFD at SFD_FMO_Systemstesting@seattle.gov, with the following information:

- A complete list of all dampers in the building, with the same information shown in the TCE Damper Grid Example on the final page of this document. Each damper should appear on its own row, and there should be columns for the information required in the TCE grid.
- Add a column indicating whether the damper is proposed for year 1, year 2, 3 or 4. This becomes the proposal that SFD will be asked to approve.
- Provide information about the date the dampers were most recently tested, and any records about their status (open deficiencies). The Fire Marshal will evaluate extending the damper test for certain dampers up to four years in the future.
- Provide any relevant information from the building owner about their plan to tackle full damper testing and/or to provide context to the most recent testing history as required in the prior bullet.
- **Hospitals** should follow the same steps but propose a six year solution as opposed to four year solution.

If SFD approves the annual program for a building, the contractor will create four separate damper inventories in TCE for the building, one for year 1 testing, one for year 2 testing, and so forth. The inventory grid would be based on the list approved by SFD. The contractor can manually enter each damper into the TCE grid, or upload the list already submitted to SFD. SFD staff will manually modify the recurring test dates to align with the approved plan.

Need More Information on Damper Testing Requirements in Washington and Seattle?

Please see the Fire Marshal's letter to [Building Owners](#), or the Fire Marshal's letter to [Contractors](#), with more information on these requirements.

TCE Damper Data Grid Example

DESCRIPTION / INVENTORY (This information is mandatory for new systems and encouraged for existing systems)

A unique equipment identification number has been assigned to each damper, printed or stamped on the damper, and reflected in the map or diagram of dampers uploaded in TCE. It is encouraged to include equipment's number on access panel labels for equipment served. *

Yes

Attach (optional): In lieu of entering individual dampers in the List below, I have uploaded a .csv or pdf file of dampers that includes all of the same columns as the List in TCE. *

CRR - Confidence Test Kitchen Fire Suppress Sys.pdf (remove)

Regional Dampers Install and Maintenance.pdf (remove)

N/A

List of dampers at location. Complete info is mandatory for new and existing systems, either in this grid or as an uploaded .csv or pdf file.*

	Equip ID (Serial # of Bldg Owner Assigned #)*	Location Description*	Actuator Type*	Control Panel Loc for Motorized Dampers (fire alarm panel/electrical panel)*	Static or Dynamic*	Damper Type*	Inaccessible/exempt NFPA 80 19.5.1.3 and 2019 NFPA 105 7.6.2.3
1.	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="button" value="Fusible Link v"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="button" value="Dynamic v"/>	<input type="button" value="Combo Fire/Smoke v"/>	<input type="button" value="Exempt v"/>

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