The Ultimate Door Hardware Specification Checklist

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Ensure your ironmongery schedule is complete, compliant and ready for tender or construction issue.

Welcome to the considered edge of interior design and architectural detailing. At Opitome, we recognise that door hardware is far more than a functional necessity; it is a defining design element that shapes the tactile and visual experience of a space. Despite its importance, the specification of architectural ironmongery remains one
of the most complex aspects of a project.

An incomplete or inaccurate door hardware schedule can introduce unnecessary risk. Mismatched finishes, delays caused by non-compliant items, and avoidable on-site issues can all impact programme, budget and overall design integrity. Before issuing a tender or finalising a construction schedule, it is essential to have a single, well-structured document that ensures every door and every detail has been fully considered.

Use the checklist below, prepared by the Opitome hardware specialists, as a practical framework to review and validate your next luxury interior or architectural project.

The Opitome Door Hardware Specification Checklist

Section 1: Door and Project Information

✿ **Door Type Confirmed:** Confirm the type of door (e.g. pivot, sliding, single-leaf, double-leaf, pocket).

✿ **Dimensions & Material:** Confirm door thickness, height and core material (e.g. solid timber, composite).

✿ **Fire Rating Requirements:** Confirm the specific fire ratings required for each door location (e.g. FD30, FD60).

✿ **Acoustic & Accessibility:** Confirm acoustic performance requirements and review compliance with accessibility standards (e.g. ADA / BS 8300).

✿ **Swing Direction & Handing:** Confirm swing direction (in/out) and correct handing (left/right) for all hinged doors.

✿ **Quantity Verification:** Verify final door quantities against architectural drawings and schedules.

Section 2: Functionality Requirements

✿ **Security & Locking Needs:** Identify doors requiring high-security locking, standard key-operated locking or simple latching.

✿ **Privacy Function:** Confirm which doors require privacy functions (e.g. W.C., bedrooms) and the appropriate mechanism (e.g. thumbturn).

✿ **Access Control Integration:** Identify doors requiring integration with electronic access control or smart home systems.

✿ **Intended Traffic Use:** Confirm anticipated usage levels (e.g. high-traffic commercial entrance versus low-traffic residential cupboard) to ensure suitable durability.

✿ **Door Control:** Identify doors requiring closers, hold-open devices or automated operation.

Section 3: Hardware Set Requirements (Ironmongery Schedule)

⚙ **Hinge Specification:** Hinges specified correctly for door weight, height, material and anticipated frequency of use.

⚙ **Handle / Knob Selection:** Handles and knobs selected with ergonomic comfort and visual design fully considered.

⚙ **Locking Mechanism Match:** Handles and knobs coordinated with compatible mortice locks, tubular latches or security mechanisms.

- ✿ **Backplates / Roses / Escutcheons:** Selected accessories aligned with handle design and locking dimensions.

- ✿ **Door Stops & Protection:** Appropriate door stops (floor or wall mounted) and protection plates specified to prevent damage.

- ✿ **Flush / Edge Pulls (Sliding):** Correct recessed or edge pulls specified for all sliding or pocket doors.

Section 4: Compliance and Technical Validation

⚙ **BS / EN Standards:** All performance-critical items (e.g. closers, locks, hinges) meet relevant British and European Standards.

⚙ **Fire Certification:** All items specified on fire-rated doors carry valid, traceable third-party fire certification.

⚙ **Door Manufacturer Compatibility:** Hardware certification checked against the door manufacturer's specific fire test data, a critical requirement for compliant fire-rated assemblies.

✿ **Disability Compliance:** Ironmongery meets the required lever length, operating force and visual contrast criteria for accessibility.

✿ **Lock Compatibility:** Lock body type (e.g. DIN, ANSI) confirmed as suitable for the door frame and installation environment.

Section 5: Finish and Aesthetic Coordination

- **Master Finish Confirmed:** A primary finish and material (e.g. aged brass, satin nickel) defined for the full hardware package. Potential split finish requirement for bathrooms, utility, etc…

- **Accessory Consistency:** Finishes for all supporting components (hinges, latches, screws, buffers, vision panels) coordinated to match seamlessly.

- **Environmental Suitability:** Finish durability reviewed for high-wear or exposed conditions (e.g. external or coastal environments).

- **Design Integration:** Hardware aesthetics coordinated with adjacent elements such as cabinetry pulls, lighting fixtures and sanitaryware to support overall design cohesion.

Section 6: Lead Time and Procurement

❋ **Total Lead Time Confirmed:** Manufacturing and delivery lead times for all items verified.

❋ **Bespoke / Long-Lead Items:** Custom or extended lead-time items (e.g. specialist patinas, bespoke cylinders) identified and scheduled early.

❋ **Schedule Issuance:** Finalised schedule issued clearly to the main contractor and joinery subcontractor.

❋ **Budget Alignment:** Final specification reviewed and signed off in line with the project's hardware budget.

Common Oversights in Hardware Specification

Even experienced teams can overlook small details that later impact the programme and quality. Common issues include:

- **Missing or Incorrect Fire Ratings:** Specifying compliant handles on fire doors while overlooking the required certified latches or hinges.

- **Mismatched Finishes:** Selecting premium handles in one finish but receiving non-matching hinges or fixings from ancillary suppliers.

✲ **Incorrect Hinge Specification:** Underspecifying hinges for oversized or heavy doors, leading to premature wear or door sag.

✲ **Incorrect Latching Action:** Specifying latches requiring excessive operating force, resulting in poor handle return performance.

✲ **Aesthetic Clash:** Finalising polished finishes too early, only to discover conflicts with bespoke patinated joinery elements introduced later.

✲ **Late Design Changes:** Confirming lock schedules before access control or smart home systems are finalised, resulting in costly revisions.

BOOK YOUR FREE HARDWARE SPECIFICATION HEALTH CHECK

Avoid unnecessary delays and protect design intent.

Coordinating a complete and compliant hardware schedule can be complex. As your dedicated hardware concierge, Opitome supports you through this process, ensuring every detail, from aesthetics to certification, is carefully reviewed before specifications are issued.

Share your existing specification, draft schedule or early design intent with our team, and we will review it for compliance, coordination and accuracy. You will receive a detailed report highlighting potential risks, missing certifications and considered recommendations, at no cost. Request your complimentary hardware specification health check today.