ASFP
ASSOCIATION FOR SPECIALIST FIRE PROTECTION

ASFP E-BULLETIN

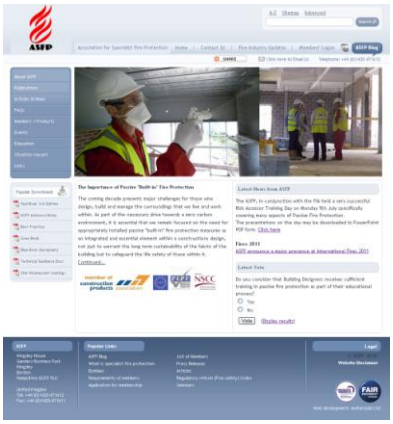
This news bulletin is brought straight to your desktop by the Association for Specialist Fire Protection (ASFP).

It provides brief, easy to digest information on current 'built in' fire protection advances, developments and issues.

To obtain further information, click the hyperlinks below each story.

www.asfp.org.uk Issue 7

MAJOR ASFP WEBSITE MAKEOVER



The UK **Association for Specialist Fire Protection (ASFP)** has recently gone live with a completely revamped and updated website in a new user-friendly format with improved navigation and several other new features.

Visitors can quickly access the most popular downloads, such as free publications, reports, updates, notes, guidance documents and articles, directly from the site's home page. In addition to providing in depth technical information with regard to built-in fire protection, the site now includes a one click search facility for the ASFP's list of members, its recent news, press releases, articles, seminars, details of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order and an on-line blog. And for those not entirely sure of what they are looking for an A-Z, sitemap and advanced search facility has been incorporated.

The coming decade presents major challenges for those who design, build and manage the surroundings that we live and work within. Fire can and will destroy any building if the design does not take account of the risk and minimise the potential dangers. UK building regulations require certain periods of stability and compartmentation measures to provide secure escape routes and to contain the spread of smoke and fire.

It should be remembered that these minimum standards are there to protect life (not property) and whether the proposals given in Approved Document B (ADB) are used, or the project adopts a fire engineering approach to optimise the fire design, these levels of protection must be provided. Those responsible for fire protection must remain updated with developments in this critical area of construction. This can be assured by regularly visiting the ASFP website.

Website: **www.asfp.org.co.uk**

£3M PROJECT CLOSE TO COMPLETION

ASFP member, **Firesafe Installations Ltd**, is close to completing a £3m-plus package of fire protection and soffit insulation works at the new Westfield Stratford City Development. Works have included over 100,000m^2 of beam and column casings using a mix of British Gypsum's Glasroc F Firecase and Rockwool's Conlit Beamclad, both to provide fire ratings of up to 2-hours duration.

Other works included over 30,000m^2 of insulated soffit linings, both directly fixed and suspended, to provide 'u' values in the region of 0.25 w/m^2.deg.C. The project has been completed in less than 12-months and to agreed lump sum budgets.

Since commencing the project, Firesafe has successfully achieved Building Confidence Accreditation (Achilles) to add to the already impressive Firas, ASFP and Chas accreditations, enabling the company to offer a fully accredited fire protection installation. Such accreditations further affirm the company's dedication to providing a quality service in conjunction with an on-going commitment to being a safe, socially and environmentally responsible service provider.

E-mail: **paul.hilditch@firesafe-installations.co.uk**
Website: **www.firesafe-installations.co.uk**

FPL SYSTEM PROVES IT'S WORTH

A fire that occurred recently said more about Flamebar BW11, manufactured by ASFP member, **Fire Protection Ltd (FPL),** than any amount of technical data, test results and literature produced in evidence of the quality of this long-established fire-resistant ductwork system.

Thanks to the aptitude of Flamebar BW11, a fire that started inside the kitchen of the Watford's exclusive 5-star rated Grove Hotel, spread no further than that. The fire-resistant system completely contained the blaze in precisely the manner it is designed to do. Subsequent pictures of the ductwork, show no sign of deterioration compared with ductwork not subject to the fire.

Flamebar fire-resistant ductwork system is constructed from galvanised sheet steel, sprayed with a specially formulated water-based fire protective compound. The unique BW11 coating has a number of distinct benefits that include the provision of in excess of 2 hours insulation when handling internal gas temperatures of 400°C, a reduction in base duct construction thickness or gauge and a reduction in duct reinforcement. The system has been successfully tested for international use, under cellulosic fire conditions, to give in excess of four hours fire resistance in the event of a fire. It can confidently be specified and installed for smoke extract, car park extract, kitchen extract, and stair pressurisation systems.

A representative from the Grove Hotel stated that the fire caused very little damage and the hotel was operating as normal, very quickly after the event.

E-mail: **info@fireprotection.co.uk**
Website: **www.fireprotection.co.uk**

KNAUF INSULATION PROVIDES CUSTOM MADE SERVICE TO ROLLALONG

ASFP member, **Knauf Insulation Ltd,** has provided a bespoke service to Rollalong Modular Buildings by supplying a selection of custom made glass mineral wool insulation, comprising a Euroclass A Fire Rating and a thermal conductivity of 0.037 W/mk, to suit a number of modular houses. The company offered a selection of its glass mineral wool insulation in various thicknesses, in order to meet the challenging demands that modular buildings present.

Rollalong specialises in constructing off-site developments, available in a variety of shapes and sizes. The lightweight, steel framed buildings can reach up to seven stories high and comply with all UK Building Regulations. "The innovative design of our modular buildings mean they demand very specific insulation thicknesses that need to be pre-cut," comments Martin Sayers, managing director of Rollalong. "Knauf Insulation was prepared to producing a bespoke insulation to meet our exact needs."

To highlight its growing emphasis on sustainability, Knauf Insulation has recently unified its rock and glass mineral wool range under the single name of 'Earthwool', which utilises the innovative ECOSE® Technology. They benefit from a revolutionary, new formaldehyde free binder technology, based on rapidly renewable materials instead of petro-based chemicals. It reduces embodied energy and delivers superior environmental sustainability. Thermal insulation properties, fire resistance, fire classification, acoustical insulation, sound absorption and mechanical properties, as well as the high levels of recycled content, are maintained with improved product durability.

E-mail: **info@knaufinsulation.com**
Website: **www.knaufinsulation.co.uk**

LEIGHS APPOINTS SENIOR CHEMIST

ASFP member, **Leighs Paints**, have appointed Carol Fleetwood as a Senior Chemist within the Fire Laboratory.

Specialising in water based technology, Carol will be aiming to further enhance Leighs Paints internationally recognised products, by creating and testing formulations for the company's fire protective coatings range - FIRETEX.

Bringing with her nine years of industrial paint experience, Carol and her colleagues will be aided by a recent £1million investment in R&D, which includes a brand new third furnace and a state of the art filtration facility.

Leighs Paints' FIRETEX products protect steel structures from collapse in the event of a fire, and are set to provide coatings for six sites at the 2012 Olympics.

After a short time in the role Carol commented, "What impresses me most about Leighs Paints is the friendly and open culture. This, together with a strong team ethic, free's everyone up and generates a really creative atmosphere".

Fire Laboratory Manager, Simon Butterfield added, "We have many FIRETEX products in development, so the future for the Fire Protection department is bright. I'm looking forward to Carol being a part of that, as it can only mean greater success for the business".

E-mail: **firetex@leighspaints.co.uk**
Website: **www.leighspaints.co.uk**

PROMAT PORTFOLIO HELPS KEEP DUBLIN CONVENTION CENTRE SAFE

ASFP member, **Promat UK Ltd,** has supplied a combination of its fire protection boards and specialist technical advice to help provide robust fire safety solutions for the new Convention Centre Dublin (CCD) project.

Both Promat PROMATECT®-B fire-rated cladding board and Promat PROMATECT®-L500 calcium silicate board were used on the project, which is positioned in Spencer Dock on the banks of the River Liffey and set to become an iconic landmark in the city.

Over 7,000m^2 of PROMATECT®-B board was used in the external wall construction. The medium density calcium silicate board provides Class 0 performance and outstanding dimensional stability. PROMATECT®-L500, which provides two hours fire protection, was used for ducting carrying electrical and computer cables throughout the building.

"PROMATECT®-B was selected as part of a wider external cladding fire protection system", explains Peter Keenan, Promat Business Manager for Ireland. "Along with our distributor, Tennants Building Products, we put together a suitable system, which had to pass a number of stringent tests to assess its fire resistance and acoustic properties before it was finally accepted for use on the project."

At almost half a million square feet, the CCD is the largest single-use building constructed in Dublin in decades. Designed by world-renowned Pritzker prize-winning architect Kevin Roche, the Centre has joined the famous Four Courts and Custom House buildings on the city's riverfront. Its many facilities include a 2,000-seat auditorium and a large range of purpose-built meeting, banqueting and exhibition spaces.

E-mail: **marketing@promat.co.uk**
Website: **www.promat.co.uk**

NEW INNOVATIVE FIRE SAFETY PRODUCT ALERTS DEAF

DMS (Deaf Message Service), from ASFP member **Fireco Ltd**, is a new fire safety product that informs deaf or hard of hearing people when the fire alarm sounds in a public place such as a supermarket, shopping centre or library. It also helps service providers and employers comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), allowing deaf and hard of hearing people freedom to move around buildings without worry of missing an emergency situation.

When a deaf or hard of hearing person enters a building where DMS is installed, they will see clear signage asking them to text a location code to the DMS number. Once a connection text has been sent, the person will be connected to the DMS service for that location.

In the event of a fire and the fire alarm sounding, the DMS controller unit, which is hardwired into the Fire Panel, will trigger a process that sends a text message to all people connected to that location within seconds.

The advantage of DMS is its simplicity. A DMS controller unit can normally be installed in under half an hour and unlike pager systems, it allows deaf or hard of hearing people to use what they already have with them: a mobile phone.

E-mail: info@deafmessageservice.com
Website: www.deafmessageservice.com

ROCKWOOL TAKES STARRING ROLE IN 'RICHARD HAMMOND'S ENGINEERING CONNECTIONS'

Rockwool's fire protection qualities played a starring role in a recent edition of 'Richard Hammond's Engineering Connections' programme, with the presenter protected from a 1,100°C fire by a panel of the company's mineral wool.

The show demonstrated the engineering innovations which create and protect the breathtaking Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao and ensure its priceless collection of art and award-winning architecture remains safe.

Rockwool mineral wool insulation, manufactured by ASFP member **Rockwool Ltd**, is used in the Guggenheim to coat and protect steel support girders, allowing them to withstand temperatures of up to 1,000°C and still maintain their structural strength. On the show, Rockwool's Technical Marketing Manager Nick Ralph explained how the unique fibre strands in Rockwool trap air and prevent fire spreading through the material, making it non-combustible and providing protection from intense infernos.

To demonstrate its effectiveness, a wall of Rockwool was created, with fire crews using a propane burner to create temperatures of up to 1,100°C on one side of the wall, while Richard Hammond sheltered on the other side of the wall in temperatures of around 27°C.

Rockwool is created from naturally occurring diabase volcanic rock, which is smelted and spun into mineral wool strands, replicating a naturally occurring process which happens during volcanic eruptions. The strands are then bound together to create dense mats of insulation which provide heat and acoustic protection for buildings and also play a key role in the passive fire protection.

E-mail: **ian.exall@rockwool.com**
Website: **www.rockwool.co.uk**

FIRE RISK ASSESSORS; COMPETENCE ASSURED!

ASFP member, **Warrington Certification (WCL),** is taking the lead in the assurance of the competence of fire risk assessors.

Through its Fire Risk Assessors Certification Schemes *(FRACS)*, WCL is able to assess and quality-assure every category of fire risk assessor in the UK; individual consultants, occupational fire risk assessors and large companies.

Since the change in regulation in 2006, many 'end users' have struggled to appoint competent fire risk assessors. With so many possible routes in to the fire risk assessment profession, the end user has had to make subjective evaluations on the qualifications, experience and knowledge a risk assessor possesses. *FRACS*, the first UKAS accredited third party certification scheme in the UK, provides a technical reference for professional consultant fire risk assessors. *FRACS* (Internal) allows for companies to have their own occupational risk assessors certificated as competent and *FRACS* (Company) is a quality assurance scheme for larger fire risk assessment firms.

"A cheap risk assessment now may seem attractive, but it could be very, very, costly in the future. Value for money should be the motivation when employing a fire risk assessor, as standard 'competence' should always be insisted upon" commented Simon Ince, Manager of Personnel Certification Schemes, WCL.

E-mail: **fracs@warringtonfire.net**
Website: **www.warringtonfire.net**

ALLTASK TASKED WITH HATFIELD PROJECT

The Hatfield Tunnel refurbishment, part of the M25 widening contract to comply with current European Union Standards (part of the Trans European Road Network) has been awarded to ASFP specialist contractor member, **Alltask Ltd**.

The project involves replacement of all mechanical and electrical equipment installed during the tunnel's original construction in 1984. Works also involve upgrading of the ventilation system, power supply and emergency equipment, the installation of new safety and monitoring equipment and the introduction of passive fire protection to the structure.

Alltask began installing the Promatect H tunnel lining system on the Bore B section of the tunnel at the end of July. The works consist of protecting the central wall between Bore's A and B, the soffit area and 1m down the verge wall, to prevent structural collapse in the event of a fire.

27.5mm thick panels, measuring 1.25m x 1.25m, are being installed directly to the concrete surfaces at critical areas along the tunnel beneath the Galleria retail outlet, a major gas pipeline and plant rooms, with Fischer 6mm FNA stainless steel nail anchors to protect the tunnel structure for up to 180 minutes should a fire occur.

E-mail: **sales@alltask.co.uk**
Website: **www.alltask.co.uk**

BEWARE OF WEAK 'APPROVALS'

When is an approval not an approval? When it's not offered by an experienced, independent third-party, says Mick Gower, Director of Fire and Security at ASFP member, **LPCB**.

"There are many companies offering a plethora of approval marks, but not all 'approvals' mean independent third party approval," says Mick. "This is particularly worrying for fire protection systems and products, where specifiers may think that products will perform to certain standards, but in fact there's no guarantee of this; and you may find out too late!"

LPCB traces its origins back to the 1880s and has been testing, inspecting and certifying a wide range of fire protection products ever since. Overseen by an independent Governing Body, as well as leading building research and education charity - the BRE Trust, LPCB carries out testing using its own experts at its UKAS accredited laboratories in Watford.

For an up to date listing of products approved by LPCB contact/ visit:

E-mail: **enquires@lpcb.com**
Website: **www.redbooklive.com**