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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 and updates on recent 'built in' fire protection advances, developments and issues happening in the fire protection sector.

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

www.asfp.org.uk Issue 1

## ACTIONS, NOT WORDS!

In September the London Evening Standard ran a story covering a two-year battle by residents of a luxury block of apartments in Rotherhithe, over a number of workmanship issues. Whilst not specific to the investigation it discovered that:

1. There was little or no fire compartmentation between floors or apartments and inadequate fire resistance to the structural steel frame.
2. Shafts rising from the basement car park through all six floors were able to vent smoke unchecked on all floors and in places no fire dampers were incorporated in the basement air ducting system.

Put simply, the lives of all the residents of this apartment complex were being put at risk.

The ASFP contracting member currently undertaking the remedial programme on this complex argues that this is far from a special case. It is merely the tip of the iceberg. Other ASFP contracting members report that poorly installed compartmentation and fire protection measures are regularly found in various buildings, mostly due to misapplication by non third-party certificated companies.

The issue, says the ASFP, must be addressed if we are to avoid the inevitable fatal consequences. The last thing on the mind of the buyer when viewing his dream apartment is the level and quality of the passive fire protection. In most instances he will not even know it is there. Fire safety installation in such buildings must be correct. We do not want to look back at some point in the future and regret that the matter was not addressed.

For more information go to:

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

## FLAMEBAR BW11 PROVIDES FIRE SAFETY AT CANARY WHARF

The Flamebar BW11 fire-resistant duct system, from fire resistance specialist Fire Protection Limited, is playing an important part in the fire safety strategy throughout the Canary Wharf development.

Canary Wharf Contractors Limited has extensively used Flamebar BW11 in smoke extraction, stairwell pressurisation, and kitchen extract systems in many of the buildings completed over the last eight years because of the product's flexibility and Fire Protection's pedigree and project experience.

Flamebar BW11 is pre-eminent among Fire Protection's portfolio of passive fire protection products. The system can confidently be specified and installed for smoke extract, car park extract, kitchen extract, and stair pressurisation systems.

Fire Protection was the first company to achieve third-party accreditation for its ductwork systems and services, including LPCB Certification, Warrington fire FIRAS, a listing in the BRE Red Book, the ASFP's Blue Book and IS09001.

For more information go to:

**E-mail:** **bobchapman@fireprotection.co.uk**

**Website:** **www.fireprotection.co.uk**

## SUCCESSFUL FIRE AND BLAST PROTECTION SEMINAR

Fire and blast protection is an increasingly important design consideration for specifiers, architects, insurance and risk managers involved in commercial and industrial construction projects. Latest figures available show that in 2006 alone, almost 33,000 fires at commercial properties were recorded, resulting in 37 deaths, direct financial losses of £723m and business interruption costs of £148m.

The fire risks associated with industrial and manufacturing environments are considered to be even broader than those of commercial buildings, while high profile commercial and tall multi-function buildings can be considered to be terrorist targets.

To address the problem, Promat UK Ltd hosted a free half-day seminar on the 5th November at the Royal Institite of British Architects. The event highlighted the issues surrounding the topic, the safety of buildings and the people who live and work in them.

Topics included a presentation outlining the design consideration for fire and blast barriers, the latest fire safety legislation, a RIBA certified Fire and Blast protection CPD presentation and the latest results from blast testing studies by the Home Office.

For more information go to:

**E-mail:** **info@promat-durasteel.co.uk**

**Website:** **www.promat-durasteel.co.uk**

## FIRE RESISTANT GULLIES

The new ACO Selecta range of fire resistant drainage gullies has been designed in accordance with BS EN 1253 Gullies for Buildings. It provides specifiers with a wide range and choice of grating styles, in either stainless steel or copper alloy for tiled, resin, cementitious or flexible sheet flooring applications.

Available with an optional intumescent fire cartridge, Selecta gullies are certified to BS EN 1366 Part 3 and classified as EI 120-U/U to BS EN 13501 Part 2.

Each gully unit is supplied with a membrane clamp as standard, with a wide choice of gully tops for various floor finishes (including insulated floors) without the need to specify additional raising sections. ACO Selecta gullies can also be supplied with wetroom gully tops, which incorporate an integral, hermetically sealed polypropylene fleece, to ensure watertight connections with proprietary roller/brush applied tanking systems.

For more information go to:

**E-mail:** **buildingdrainage@aco.co.uk**

**Website:** **www.acobuildingdrainage.co.uk**

## FIRECO SYSTEM X GROWTH CONTINUES

Fireco are launching a new version of their highly successful System X fire safety system, which incorporates a transmitter unit, directly wired into a fire alarm panel, to automatically signal a fire alarm condition to all linked products. This latest development means that the company is now the only manufacturer of fire door retainers that comply with all three categories of BS 7273-4:2007 - Actuation of release mechanisms for doors.

System X combines the very latest communications technology with the simplest, most cost-effective way of legally holding open fire doors in any position and automatically releasing them when the fire alarm sounds. It is a compliant system that can be easily installed and meets all commissioning criteria.

A System X transmitter unit (TX) positioned near to the fire alarm panel is wired into the fire alarm fault and sounder circuit using fire rated cable. The TX unit monitors the fire alarm panel's operation, as well as 12 fault and power conditions. In the event of an alarm or fault, a signal is sent to the TX unit via the wire connection, which in turn communicates to all the linked devices. It is powered by the fire alarm panel so, in the event of power failure, all X products in range will fail-to-safe. System X can be set to 16 separate ident settings, allowing different systems to be installed in multiple locations.

For more information go to:

**E-mail:** **sales@firecoltd.com**

**Website:** **www.firecoltd.com**

## KNAUF INSULATION LAUNCHES DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO INSULATION


Knauf Insulation has produced a technical guide containing over 800 insulation systems for all aspects of insulation specification. The new 'Insulation Solutions for Buildings' guide provides technical information on the thermal, acoustic, fire and environmental performance of differing insulation products, as well as detailed information on the relevant regulatory requirements.

The new guide covers glass and rock mineral wool, as well as foamed plastics and other insulation materials, making it the most comprehensive reference book available. With recent changes to Part L, Part B and Part E of the Building Regulations, the introduction of the Code for Sustainable Homes and the proposed Code for Sustainable Buildings, there has never been so much regulatory reform that impacts so directly on building insulation.

The easy to use guide is sectioned by Building Regulations and guidance, market sector and products. It includes performance data tables, technical drawings and in-depth information aimed at directing the user to the most appropriate insulation solution for any application.

For more information go to:

**E-mail:** **info@knaufinsulation.com**

**Website:** **www.knaufinsulation.co.uk**

## NEW CERTIFICATION OF FIRE RISK ASSESSORS LAUNCHED

Warrington Certification, part of Bodycote Warringtonfire, has recently successfully completed a pilot of a new fire risk assessor certification scheme, in partnership with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). As a result, Warrington Certification is currently applying for accreditation of the scheme by UKAS.

The 'Competent Persons Certification Scheme' complies with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17024:2003 – general requirements for bodies operating certification of persons. A number of fire risk assessors are now certificated against its requirements and they are listed on the Warrington Certification website.

For more information go to:

**E-mail:** **graham.orme@bodycote.com**

**Website:** **www.warringtonfire.net**

**www.bodycote.com**

## FIRE PROTECTION ADVICE FOR STEEL BEAMS WITH WEB OPENINGS

Beams that contain openings need to be considered totally differently than solid beams, when considering their fire protection requirements, since their structural failure may be very different.

It is for the designer to provide the limiting temperature for any section design, taking account of the nature of the critical stresses. Guidance on the appropriate product performance testing and the procedure for determining the appropriate thickness of products can be found in the ASFP publication 'Fire Protection for Structural Steel in Buildings', also known as the 'Yellow Book'.

In the case of intumescent coatings, the current guidance is limited to beams with circular openings. Some steel beam manufacturers, however, have proprietary software that can reliably provide the necessary information for other, non-circular openings. Without such data intumescent coating manufacturers cannot specify the required product thickness.

The current position is as follows. Firstly, beams with circular openings may be protected by any intumescent product that has undertaken the ASFP protocol for beams containing circular openings. Secondly, beams with elongated circular openings may be protected as with circular openings, provided a 'limiting temperature' is available from the beam fabricator or the Structural Engineer for the project.

With regard to beams with openings other than circular, the ASFP and the SCI have agreed to develop a protocol, but this could take a year to complete. In the meantime it is recommended that, unless the appropriate critical design data is available for a specific beam design, product performance data obtained from the 'Yellow Book' testing and assessment protocol for beams containing circular openings may be used as a basis of providing fire protection.

For more information go to:

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

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