



# 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](http://www.asfp.org.uk)

Issue 4

## BEWARE ILL ADVISED APPLICATION GUIDANCE

Fire protection in buildings can be a more complicated process than it first appears. Product manufacturers go through the hoop to prove the relevance of their products and the competence of the installer has always been critical for successful application. This is why all Association for Specialist Fire Protection (ASFP) installer members are required to be third party certificated in accordance with recognised schemes operating under the auspices of UKAS, the UK Accreditation Service. The matter is non-negotiable!

The UK is suffering from an unfettered plethora of questionable actions from self-promoting, self-inspecting suppliers/applicators who are potentially undermining the foundations for future fire safety in buildings.

A statement recently broadcast in a TV programme compounded the implication; 'Why buy an expensive fire door?' It advised that ordinary timber doors could be converted into fire doors by the simple application of an intumescent coating to the surface. The answer is very clear. A reliable fire door will have been tested in a standardised manner by a recognised fire test laboratory. The fire test report will limit the application of the data to the tested construction without willy-nilly extension to all and sundry doors. It is critical to recognise that the test is on the entire door system, including the fittings and fixings, the door frame, the abutments and the physical dimensions of the entire door system.

The ASFP continues to encounter situations where suppliers have encouraged purchasers to apply 'intumescent wallpaper' to a variety of surfaces, without regard to the limitations of the field of application arising from any fire test report. In other words, they are playing with people's lives for personal profit.

Reputable fire protection products should only be applied by reputable installers with independent third party certification. First party certification practices based on non-accredited arrangements should not be considered as a viable alternative. All our lives are threatened by those who give incomplete advice, or misapply data with limited fields of applications.

The ASFP provides useful advice for enhancing the fire performance of surfaces in buildings in its free 'Orange Book' entitled 'Guidance on the classification for the reaction to fire performance of fire retardant coating systems'. Copies can be downloaded without charge

Website: [www.asfp.org.uk/publications](http://www.asfp.org.uk/publications)



## FIRE PROTECTION WINS PRESTIGIOUS FIRE INDUSTRY AWARD

ASFP member, Fire Protection Ltd (FPL), has won the Passive Fire Safety System Equipment Installer of the Year category at the recent Fire Industry Awards.

The evening was hosted by television sports presenter, Steve Rider and was attended by more than 600 of the fire industry's most important and influential figureheads.

This prestigious accolade is testament to the continued levels of quality and excellence displayed by the fire rated duct specialist, who also won the same award in 2007.

The judges were impressed by the quality of FPL's fire resistant duct system, Flamebar BW11, which is certified to LPS1531 (approved passive installer) and accredited by FIRAS, plus the company's ongoing commitment to staff training and development.

Flamebar BW11 complies with all applicable product standards and is currently undergoing testing and certification to meet the pending construction products directive, BSEN12101, required by European legislation.



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## ROCKWOOL LAUNCHES NEW SOFFIT SLAB

**Rockwool Ltd**, manufacturers of non-combustible stone wool insulation, is about to launch its Hi-Impact soffit slab – a thermal and fire-rated solution for concrete roof soffits.

The new product, created in partnership with Promat, has been developed in response to demand from Rockwool's customers.

It means that Rockwool now has a complete solution providing thermal and fire protection in car parks, both for new builds and refurbishment.

Rockwool's Hi-Impact soffit slab is non-combustible and has an A1 classification for reaction to fire. It has been independently tested by Exova Warringtonfire, and offers up to 4-hours fire protection to a concrete soffit. This test makes Hi-Impact Soffit Slab the only solution for concrete soffits that has been fire tested in conditions that match its application.

The soffit slab also offers the thermal properties of Rockwool stone-wool insulation, combined with the impact resistant Promat PROMATECT HD board. The Promat facing board is able to be decorated on-site to match colour schemes.

When fitted to a 150mm concrete soffit, 136mm thick Hi-Impact soffit slab allows specifiers to meet Part L regulations of 0.25 W/m<sup>2</sup>K, while offering 3-hour fire resistance. The more stringent requirement of 0.20 W/m<sup>2</sup>K can also be achieved using 166mm of Hi-Impact soffit slab, which will provide up to 4-hours fire resistance.

The Hi-Impact soffit slab has been developed to ensure cost effectiveness and ease of installation and can be easily cut to accommodate services. The Rockwool core of the slab allows for an easier fit into the uneven surfaces of soffits; maintaining the aesthetic line and level of the ceiling without creating air gaps which may affect thermal performance. Soffit slab is also available as un-faced, with black or white tissue facing or aluminium foil facing.

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## BRIGHTON'S GRAND HOTEL CHOOSES DORGARD

Brighton's luxurious De Vere Grand Hotel, an iconic landmark that dominates Brighton seafront, has chosen to install **Fireco Ltd** 'Dorgards' throughout the hotel allowing its fire doors to be held open and to automatically close should the fire alarm sound.

With large numbers of guests, delegates and staff moving about the building easy access through doorways, without compromising fire safety, is a major requirement.

A hotel spokesman commented *"After looking at a number of options, we found that Dorgards offered an easy installation solution that avoided disruption to the hotel. We were also able to specify brass covers for some doors, matching perfectly with the hotel's elegant surroundings."*

Dorgard is a wireless solution that provides the simplest, most cost-effective means of legally holding fire doors open in any position and automatically releasing them should the fire alarm sound. The product also offers significant cost advantages since it can be fitted in minutes and with no wiring.

The Dorgard range is the solution to the illegally wedged-open fire door problem, in any environment. The product complies fully with all relevant British Standards and EU Directives and to date, more than 300,000 have been installed across the UK.

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## ANDY KAY JOINS EXOVA WARRINGTONFIRE

Andy Kay, outgoing chairman of the Association of Specialist Fire Protection (ASFP) and previously with Hilti (GB) Ltd, has joined internationally renowned fire technology company, **Exova Warringtonfire** as its new Divisional Business Development Manager.

With more than 25 years experience in the construction industry, Andy has spent the last nine years heading up the fire protection business of Hilti (GB), during which time he guided the company to be number one in the penetration seal market. As well as his involvement with the ASFP, Andy is also a former vice chair of the Fire Safety Development Group.

Tim Cornes, Director of Fire Safety and Engineering Technology for Exova said, "Andy Kay's appointment demonstrates Exova Warringtonfire's continued commitment to investing in high calibre people to enhance our business development activities.

With his extensive knowledge and experience in the passive fire protection industry, Andy will be responsible for growing our business and developing relationships with key industry stakeholders and we are delighted that he is joining us at such an exciting time".

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## MULTIPLE BENEFITS PUT DRITHERM ON TOP

The advantages offered by full-fill insulation over part-fill, in masonry cavity walls, have been brought into focus by **Knauf Insulation Ltd**.

One of the key findings being that the installed cost of the company's 'DriTherm' glass mineral wool cavity slabs shows an almost 50% saving over rigid part-fill foam boards.

Costings were calculated using the SPONS Architects and Builders Price Book 2008 and are based on the requirements for a typical semi-detached house with a target U-value of 0.29 W/m<sup>2</sup>K.

On the basis of an 80m<sup>2</sup> area, the material and labour costs for installing 1,000m<sup>2</sup> of 100mm thick DriTherm Cavity Slabs are just £365.60, which is virtually half the cost of achieving the same level of thermal performance using rigid part-fill foam boards.

With DriTherm it is also easier to achieve more reliable thermal performance than with rigid foam boards. Its flexible nature allows it to follow wall contours, resulting in far fewer air spaces on the warm side of the insulation. The slabs also knit together at joints, preventing heat loss through the gaps.

DriTherm is now manufactured using patented ECOSE® Technology, which provides sustainability benefits never achieved before with any type of insulation. It reduces the embodied energy whilst providing superior environmental performance. The process has been developed to enhance the product's sustainability, without compromising its excellent thermal, acoustic and fire performance characteristics.

Rigid foam boards are notoriously difficult to cut and require a greater degree of care and time to install correctly. The BBA certified DriTherm Cavity Slab range is quick to install and avoids such problems, thus enhancing productivity.

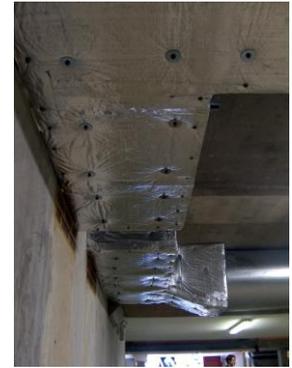
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## NEW GENERATION MINERAL WOOL

Saint-Gobain Isover's ULTIMATE™ Protect, also known as U Protect, is an innovative new generation mineral wool that combines all the advantages of conventional thermal and acoustic insulation with a unique high-performance profile offering:

- Top level fire resistance - up to two hours fire protection, for any duct type and orientation
- Significantly lower weight - up to 65% lighter than traditional stone wool
- Easy handling - U Protect is easily cut, offers flexible shaping and is a virtually waste-free installation. With no need for expensive prefabrication and no need to glue joint lengths or duct surfaces U Protect can be installed in up to half the time of traditional solutions
- Improved acoustic performance - up to 50% better sound absorption than competitive products.



The ductwork industry faces significant changes over the next few years as current British Standards are replaced by new European Standards. Isover's ULTIMATE™ Protect range has been tested and passed the requirements of EN 1366-1 and BS 476: Part 24 for ventilation ducts, with a Euroclass A1 rating fire classification, designated for a product of non-combustibility. U Protect is an 'all in one', future proof solution. Request a copy of the ULTIMATE™ Protect installation and specification handbook.

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## PROMAT PROVIDES ROBUST FIRE PROTECTION FOR BELL COMMON TUNNEL

Promat UK Ltd has supplied its fire protection system 'Cafco FENDOLITE® MII' as part of the M25 Bell Common Tunnel Refurbishment Project.

The Refurbishment project is a major maintenance scheme to upgrade the tunnel's safety equipment to current European Standards and to replace mechanical and electrical equipment that was installed when the tunnel was constructed in the early 1980s. Refurbishment commenced in October 2008 with completion scheduled for March 2010.

Cafco FENDOLITE® MII, the key part of an integrated fire protection system, is being applied to more than 60,000m<sup>2</sup> of the tunnel structure, including the pre-cast concrete roof beams, roof, secant piled walls and the newly constructed central impact wall within the tunnel, as well as the new portal extensions. Providing a minimum of three hours fire protection, Cafco FENDOLITE® MII will limit the temperature of the concrete to levels at which concrete spalling and damage will be prevented, thus protecting against a progressive collapse of the tunnel.



Fires in tunnels are more severe than those experienced in buildings due to the nature and types of materials (such as petrol, chemicals and gas) that are routinely transported through them. Because of the enclosed nature of the structure, temperatures exceeding 1,350°C can be reached very quickly and this demands fire protection materials more commonly used in oil and gas refinery complexes.

Cafco FENDOLITE® MII is a single pack, factory controlled premix, based on exfoliated vermiculite and Portland cement. To date, it has been used to protect more than 15 million m<sup>2</sup> of structural steel and concrete. The material has a proven track record of success since its introduction into tunnel applications in 1981 and has never failed during a fire.

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