



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 6

SYSTEM X IS THE FLEXIBLE SOLUTION

The hugely successful System X wireless fire safety system, from ASFP member **Fireco Ltd**, is increasingly becoming the system of choice as it offers exceptional flexibility when managing a building's fire safety.

System X uses Wi-Fi technology to communicate with an unlimited number of fire safety devices within a 100 metre range (subject to a site survey), constantly monitoring their status, including battery life and signal strength. As the link between the transmitter and devices is completely wireless, installation is quick and easy.

System X is suitable for all environments including offices, hotels, restaurants and public areas, in particular where there is a requirement for fire doors to be held open legally. It is fully fail to safe and compliant with BS EN 1155 and BS 7273-4 and suitable for any category of fire door.



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SMOKE CONTROL DAMPERS 'GREY' AREA BEING RESOLVED

E (integrity) and ES (integrity and leakage) classified fire dampers are used throughout the UK and other countries as a primary method of preventing fire and smoke from passing through heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and thereby, from one compartment to another, thus maintaining fire separation for means of escape.

The primary reference document for guidance on such systems is the **Association for Specialist Fire Protection (ASFP)** 'Grey Book' entitled, 'Fire Dampers (European Standards) Volume 1'.

Whilst the Grey Book is concerned with fire dampers tested to EN 1366-2 and classified according to EN 13501-3, it does not make reference to smoke control dampers, which are tested to European Standard EN 1366-10 and classified according to EN 13501.4. In order to resolve the matter the ASFP, in conjunction with the Heating and Ventilating Contractors Association (HVCA) and various fire damper manufacturers, is currently producing Volume 2 of the 'Grey Book' which will specifically deal with EN fire testing, classification, application and the installation of smoke control dampers.

In simple terms, Volume 1 provides guidance for fire and smoke protection for means of escape routes and for maintaining the fire compartment, whereas Volume 2 will focus on the use of smoke control damper systems in combination with ductwork.

When in place, the new ASFP documents will provide practical advice so that damper manufacturers, system designers and installers are able to consider the appropriate issues and at the design stage, to make the necessary decisions to ensure that dampers will function as intended by current regulations. Both documents will make the design, specification and installation of fire and smoke dampers, where tested and classified to harmonised European procedures, easier.

Website: www.asfp.org.uk

HILTI'S RAINSCREEN FIRESTOP SYSTEM

Many buildings in the UK are protected by cladding (sometimes referred to as rainscreen systems) designed to protect the building's original external structure from the elements and against ageing. It is estimated we have around 1.6 million square metres of such over-cladding in the UK.

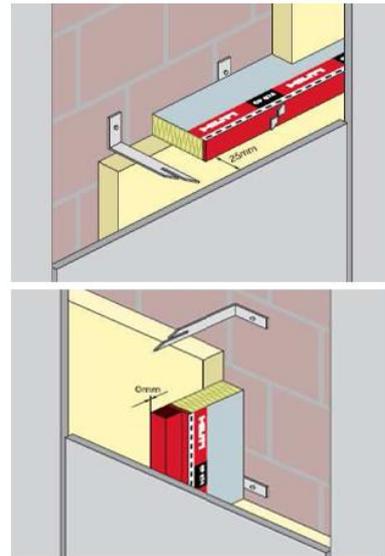
One of the recognised issues with these systems is fire stopping. The cladding can create a chimney effect between the building's original surface structure and the internal face of the Rainscreen - the danger being that fire may spread unchecked inside this void and spread from floor to floor in the building.

Most cladding systems need to maintain ventilation to avoid condensation issues. They also need drainage facilities. These are key issues when trying to design an internal fire stop barrier between the original structure and the façade, both horizontally and vertically.

However, a simple to use rainscreen cladding system known as CP 674 (age test approved to DIN EN 1363/1 and BS476 Part 20, which replicates the life cycles these products may face) from ASFP member, **Hilti GB Ltd**, will maintain the required ventilation whilst, in the event of a fire, will quickly close off the gaps.

"It is essential that these systems stay in place up to 30 years, still perform as per its original fire test and have credible age testing support for the fire protection barriers" states Hilti. "Life safety and fire is a real issue that needs credible support"

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ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY BENEFITS FROM 3D DESIGN

Built in 1932, the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford (the home of the Royal Shakespeare Company) is currently undergoing a comprehensive transformation. An essential parameter is that it retains its original Art Deco and Victorian elements, whilst blending the key aspects of the existing buildings with the new theatre designs.

ASFP member, **Knauf Insulation Ltd** and specialist contractor Varla (UK) Ltd, was tasked with designing, manufacturing and installing a Zinc Standing Seam Roof and Wall system to meet the stringent demands of the theatre's large domed roof.

A key driver, which led to the system's specification, was the company's ability to provide unique 3D calculation support from its Technical Advisory Centre. The support service can calculate two and three dimensional heat flows through construction elements, allowing exact insulation thickness and U-value requirements to be determined.



Designed specifically for metal clad roofs, 'FactoryClad 32' was installed to provide superior thermal and acoustic insulation. The highly resistant, non combustible glass mineral wool is also ideal for specifications where fire safety is paramount.

Alex Iles, of Varla (UK) Ltd said "Quality and performance was essential for this prestigious project. This installation not only ensures the correct U-Value, but also the critical fire performance. The non combustible fire performance of FactoryClad 32 made it the correct choice for this project".

The Royal Shakespeare Theatre transformation project is due for completion in late 2010.

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ROCKWOOL LAUNCHES FIRE STOPPING TECHNICAL MANUAL

ASFP member, **Rockwool Ltd**, has produced a unique Fire Stopping Technical manual to help contractors and installers find an appropriate and effective sealing system for a wide variety of penetrations and substrates running through a building's walls, floors and roofs.

The growing use of different kinds of services passing through the building fabric makes it essential that the sealing methods should consider the risk of fire spreading through the services, along their surface, or through any cavities within the surrounding construction.

As a minimum requirement, each service or void must be fire-stopped to match the fire performance of the wall, floor, or roof through which it passes. When considering the variable characteristics of the voids and services, selection of the most appropriate fire stopping system can be a complex process for the installer, but one that legally, morally and professionally has to be successfully performed.

The new manual, available in PDF format at: www.rockwool.co.uk/firestopping, has simple look-up tables which match different types of openings with the appropriate fire stopping system solution. Its installation drawings give the precise details of how to install those products to achieve the fire required rating. It also includes all relevant product data sheets and additional test reports, such as air-tightness and acoustic performance of the Rockwool Ablative Coated Batt.

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A 'JOINED UP' APPROACH TO FIRE SAFETY

Following the success of previous events, ASFP member **Promat UK Ltd** will be hosting its third free-of-charge annual seminar on Tuesday 29th June at Ascot Racecourse. This year's theme is - "Fire Safety - A joined-up approach?" and will address current fire safety issues from a number of perspectives.

The purpose of the seminar is to provide delegates with an overview of current fire safety issues from a number of unique perspectives and to evaluate if indeed current practice represents 'a joined-up approach'. Promat will use the forum to evaluate the current process, results of recent events concerning fire safety, legal responsibilities and to introduce best practice procedures designed to safeguard lives and livelihood.

The forum has been designed to provide an opportunity to discuss current and future fire issues, including fire safety, amongst a specially invited group of senior industry representatives including clients, main contractors, specifiers and other stakeholders with fire safety responsibilities.

The agenda will include the following:

- Fire safety in social, high-rise and timber frame housing
- What is wrong with the system now?
- Active & Passive fire protection in high rise
- Corporate manslaughter - Legal responsibilities & liabilities
- Risk Assessment
- Current and future role of Building Control
- Client viewpoint.

Speakers have been appointed from NHBC, ASFP, asb law, Warrington Certification and include Quantity Surveyor Arnold Tarling, famed for his BBC exposé on the lack of Fire Risk Assessment in London borough tower blocks.

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AND BS9999 EXPLAINED

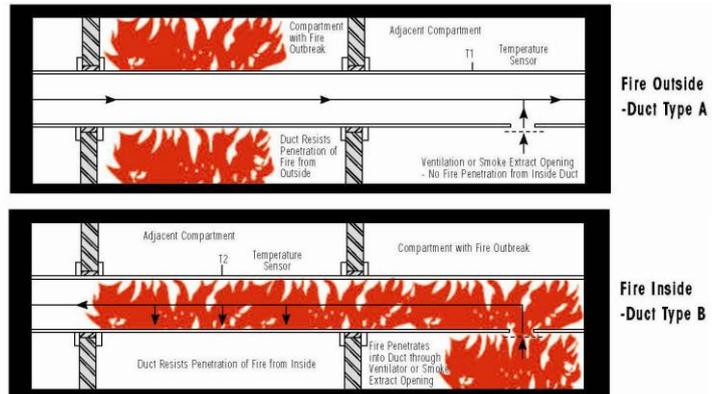
The CPD Certification Service approved presentation, entitled 'Fire Resistant Ductwork – why, where and how', compiled by award winning fire-rated ductwork system manufacturer, **Fire Protection Ltd (FPL)**, has been revamped and updated to incorporate changes from BS5588 (Part 9) to BS9999.

BS 9999 is the Code of Practice for Fire Safety in the Design, Management and use of Buildings. The British Standard, which supersedes the majority of the BS5588 series of Codes of Practice, echoes the original Part 9. It aims to ensure that the design and construction of ductwork systems prevents them becoming the means by which fire, smoke and other products of combustion can spread from one compartment to another in a given time, or prejudice the safe use of escape routes. The code also makes reference to the importance of replacement, or make up air, when designing smoke extract systems.

The FPL presentation, designed for clients, engineers and authorities, has proven extremely popular. The 'why' element explains regulations and standards, the 'where' element describes systems and locations, whilst the 'how' section clarifies the types of fire resistant ductwork.

The detailed presentation extensively illustrates the two main applications for fire resistant ductwork, namely maintaining compartmentation without the use of fire dampers (e.g. kitchen extract ducts) and systems active under fire conditions (e.g. smoke extract ducts). It can be organised for any mutually convenient date and time.

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FIRE SAFETY – A JOINED UP APPROACH?

The Regulatory Reform (fire Safety) Order requires that any building, or part thereof, subject to different ownership or management, must have an up to date fire risk assessment.

It is the responsibility of a designated 'responsible person' to ensure that this is monitored at all times. Normally the responsible person will not be an expert in fire safety and he/she will have to appoint a 'competent person' to undertake this assessment.

So how does the responsible person assess the competence of the competent person?

FRACS (Fire Risk Assessors Certification Scheme) has been designed to fill this gap. It provides accredited third party competence assessment of fire risk assessors and offers the same assurances as product and installer certification. Currently no strong statement of support for third party certification of fire risk assessors has been forthcoming from government; however a 'joined up' approach must surely be an advantage for the building owner and thus this support from Communities & Local Government (CLG) cannot be too far away.

Using certificated products, certificated installers and having the building in which they are installed assessed by certificated fire risk assessors provides a powerful demonstration that due diligences has been served.

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