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 9

HOW AWARE OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES ARE YOU?

In the event of a fire in a building, the built-in fire protection measures (i.e. fire resisting walls, floors, doors and other structural elements) are vital to maintaining the building's stability and integrity, by dividing it into compartmented areas of manageable risk. Such compartmentation is designed to restrict the growth and spread of smoke and fire, to give occupants time to escape, to allow the fire fighters to do their job and to limit the extent of the damage.

It is vital, therefore, that these protection measures are correctly designed, specified, installed and maintained, if the building is to behave as expected should fire break out. General awareness of appropriate products and systems, as well as the responsibilities of particular individuals, however, is not as perfect as it ought to be, which is why the ASFP has recently issued an Advisory Note entitled 'Awareness guidance for the Responsible Person under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005' (RRFSO).

The document explains who is responsible, what they need to know, how they can ensure that fire protection is installed properly, who should carry out fire risk assessments on their behalf and where they can find a suitable risk assessor.

To download a copy of the new awareness guidance, or for more details on the measures required to ensure that your premises comply with the RRFSO, visit the ASFP website.

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

NEW FREEDOR SWINGS INTO ACTION…

Freedor, from ASFP member **Fireco Ltd**, is the new, unique and ergonomic solution for holding fire doors open safely and legally, whilst enabling improved access.

Freedor is a wireless device that is installed at the top of a fire door. It allows the door to swing freely, or to be left in any position, but closes when the fire alarm sounds. The device listens for a fire alarm that exceeds 65dBA, verifying the alarm over a 14 second period, before releasing the fire door to prevent the spread of fire and smoke around the building.

Freedor allows an adjustable closing speed, operates up to power size 4 (80kg fire door), allows the door to be set at any angle up to 90 degrees and to operate normally until activated. It is suitable for right and left hand swing doors and can be installed on the opening or closing side of the door. In addition, it has adjustable sensitivity, a night-time release facility, fail-to-safe technology with a minimum battery life of 12-18 months and is designed to comply with BS EN 1154, BS EN 1155, BS 7273-4 category C.

Fireco's products and systems are installed in a wide and diverse range of locations such as schools, care homes, hotels, restaurants and offices.

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Website: **www.firecoltd.com**

PROMAT SYSTEMGLASS® CLEAR CHOICE FOR CISCO SYSTEMS

A new world-class research and development centre in Ireland has been fitted with the Promat SYSTEMGLASS® firer-rated glazing system from ASFP members, **Promat Ltd.** The system uses the very latest in mullion-free, glass-to-glass silicone jointing technology and was chosen for its ability to combine outstanding fire protection with maximum design flexibility.

The new Centre has been built in Galway by the leading internet networking solutions provider, Cisco Systems. The interior has been fitted throughout with double-glazed, mullion-free, acoustic partitions, combined with the patented Promat SYSTEMGLASS® system. The system's glazed screens provide the maximum possible light transmission by replacing mullions and joining adjacent glass panes with a simple butt joint. Promat SYSTEMGLASS® can provide fire integrity and insulation performance of up to 60 minutes in a butt-jointed configuration.

This allowed the architects to include flush finished maple doorsets, which feature rebates to the frames that allow the glazing to be sealed directly into the doorset with silicone and the incorporation of large expanses of uninterrupted glass, which complement the minimalist design scheme while still providing the required fire protection.

"This project highlights that providing a robust fire protection system does not need to restrict freedom of design," commented Sean Appleton, Marketing Manager for Promat.

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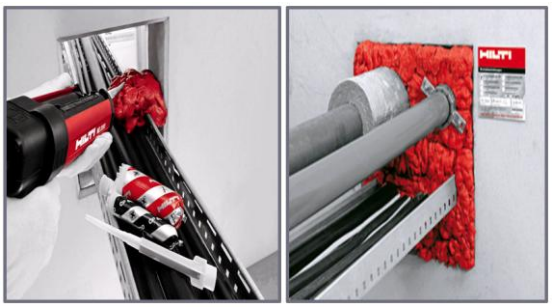
HILTI CP660 TWO PART FIRE FOAM ... A PROBLEM SOLVER



How often do you find small unlined rough cut drywall openings on site with cables/conduits, metal pipes, or trays passing through, especially on refurbishment projects.

When you do, what firestopping options do you have? Make the opening bigger, letter box/line it out and use fire batt, perhaps?

Hilti CP 660 is a new innovative firestop system developed and produced by ASFP product manufacturing member, **Hilti (GB) Ltd.** The two component soft foam is designed for permanent firestopping of small to mid-sized openings (100-250 ml). It is ideal for cable/electrical applications (cable bundle, cable tray) and pipe/mechanical applications (mainly metal pipes with non-flammable insulation).

Unlike many PU foams, Hilti CP 660 is a true expanding fire seal which will cover a broad spectrum of applications without the use of an additional firestop coating, or additional mineral wool as back filler. It is unique and outstanding regarding product features and approval range.

The new foam's 3-Phase-Technology enables it to mix consistently, expand six fold and cure faster. The foam becomes shapeable after approximately 5 minutes and can be cut after about 10 minutes. In addition, single cables can be retrofitted easily without drilling or cutting.

Hilti CP 660 provides up to two hours fire rating, is gas and smoke tight, has excellent sound insulation properties, is able to accept movement capability and has been 30-years age tested.

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PASSIVE FIRE PROTECTION EXPLAINED WITH LIVE FIRE DEMONSTRATIONS

Chiltern International Fire (CIF) and BM TRADA Certification are launching a new training day entitled, 'Passive Fire Protection Explained'.

The driver, said Chief Operating Officer Jon Osborn, is to address *"a perception within the fire industry that there is a lack of understanding of passive fire protection (PFP) amongst those whose day-to-day roles bring them into contact with this important issue, especially in the light of recent fire tragedies and the responsibilities placed upon individuals under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order".*

To be held on 26th May and 27th October, 2011 at CIF's High Wycombe headquarters, the course will combine technical presentations with a series of live fire demonstrations, to provide delegates with an understanding of:

- Passive fire protection responsibility and legislation
- Passive fire protection products in the built environment, including load bearing walls / floors, glazing, fire doors, fire stopping and penetrations
- How passive fire protection products relate to Approved Document B
- The principles behind passive fire protection: product testing, assessments and certification.

The cost to attend the event is £375 + VAT. TRADA members are offered a discounted rate of £340.00 + VAT.

E-mail: **training@chilternfire.co.uk.**
Website: **www.chilternfire.co.uk**

PASSIVE FIRE PROTECTION INSTALLATION CERTIFICATION

Loss Prevention Standards, used by LPCB, not only cover construction, fire and security products, but also associated services such as installation and maintenance. Selecting approved products is only half the story – their performance can be severely undermined by poor installation and maintenance.

When LPCB receives an application for certification, the company applying is carefully audited through an ongoing programme of site and office audits to ensure consistent conformance with the certification scheme. Office audits establish the competencies, qualifications and training of operational staff and correct sourcing and use of products. Evidence of any recorded Quality Assurance inspection must be available to the auditor.

Site audits ensure that installation teams carry out the work in accordance with the correct procedures, as detailed in the manufacturers' documentation, required codes and standards. Management systems are also assessed to ensure traceability of producers and to ensure that onsite installation checks are carried out by contactors.

When the assessors are satisfied that all approved systems and procedures are being correctly operated and adhered to, the installer is approved. The installer may then issue numbered LPCB certificates of conformity for each project covering their scope of certification.

All currently approved installers and products are listed on the RedBookLive website.

E-mail: **enquiries & bre.co.uk**
Website: **www.redbooklive.com**

LEIGHS PAINTS COVERS 0-120 MINUTES IN ONE PRODUCT

ASFP manufacturer member, Leighs Paints, has created a one product solution that looks set to simplify fire protection a wide range of steel sections and reduce process costs.

FIRETEX FX1002 for onsite and FIRETEX FX2002 for in-shop application can now provide fire protection from 0 to120 minutes - creating a one product solution with excellent thicknesses.

In addition to simplifying the fire estimation and specification process and reducing the risks involved during application, both FIRETEX FX1002 and 2002 has the ability to achieve a higher fire rating by simply changing the amount of coating applied (as opposed to changing the product completely), thus removing the need for multiple products. This ultimately reduces waste, process time and most importantly, cost.

Business Manager, Anthony Ward commented "Fire protection solutions are a great passion of Leighs Paints and we continually work to develop our range to provide more competitive, cost effective solutions. The improvements to FX1002 and FX2002 enable us to provide a competitive one product solution, which can reduce process costs and improve stock management. In an industry where time and price are so important, any reduction can give big advantages."

Praised for their aesthetic appearance Leighs Paints FIRETEX range has been used on many prestigious structures around the globe including 2012 Olympic structures, Heathrow T5, Bayer Leverkussen's Bay Arena and the Shard of Glass in London.

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ROOF STUDY HIGHLIGHTS FIRE SAFETY ISSUES

Four potential key reasons for the spread of fire in roofing voids were identified in a new major study, commissioned by the Government and carried out by fire safety experts – ASFP member, **Exova Warringtonfire**, together with Butler and Young Ltd.

The study, commissioned by the Department for Communities and Local Government, investigated a number of specific issues relating to fire compartmentation in roof voids, following a number of fires in relatively modern apartment buildings, which resulted in fires in roof voids that spread quickly throughout the roof affecting all the top floor flats.

The key reasons identified for the spread of fire in the study were combustible materials spanning beneath the non-combustible roof covering and lack of, or poor installation, of cavity barriers along the soffit and heat transfer through penetrations. At the same time, the difficulty facing fire crews gaining access to the cavities and voids of timber framed buildings was highlighted.

The purpose of the investigation was two-fold, to determine if recent and current building practice follows the guidance in the recognised building control regulation Approved Document B and if not, why not. The other reason was to conduct research into fires within roof voids.

There was a variation of the amount of detailed information provided in the submissions with a large proportion containing insufficient design detail of roof void compartmentation to allow the inspector to confirm compliance at the plan checking stage. It was also noted that a number of submissions were considered as good practice as they were clear and concise and were supplemented by three dimensional drawings of the wall and roof interface showing the multiple interface layers.

For each fire that was investigated, the evidence showed that where the compartmentation was designed and installed in line with the recommendations of Approved Document B, it succeeded in preventing fire spread. Construction details shown in Building Regulations applications for approximately 750 residential buildings were reviewed.

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THE DANGERS OF 'INDICATIVE' OR 'AD-HOC' TESTING

The ASFP has just published an Advisory Note carrying essential information with regard to indicative, or ad hoc testing, of passive fire protection products.

The Association fully supports third party product certification as the most appropriate way of demonstrating the performance of such products in the market place. Third party product certification is the only way of giving architects, specifiers, enforcement authorities and building owners, the level of confidence that products are 'fit for purpose'.

Given that certification is not mandatory, fire test reports are often used to demonstrate a product's fire performance. Unfortunately, many end-users may be unaware of the different types of fire tests that might be used and this can result in unsuitable reports being considered when obtaining approval (e.g. via Local Authority Building Control). An example of this is the use of an 'indicative' or 'small scale' fire resistance testing as justification for the performance of a full size element.

Ad-hoc Tests should only be used where no British (or European) standard exists and Indicative tests should only be used for product development. Unless the condition on site is equal to, or less onerous than, the situation to which the ad-hoc test was based, the test evidence has no validity. If you are in any doubt, seek advice from the test laboratory that undertook the test.

A copy of the new Advisory Note can be downloaded, free of charge, from the ASFP website.

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