



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 3

FIRE, LEGAL LIABILITY AND YOU

2008 produced the highest UK peace time fire losses of all time; rising over the previous year by 16% to a record £1.3bn. That's why we must all play our part.

If you are involved in provision of a fire protection package, at any level, you share liability for its usefulness and its operation when it is needed in fire and that liability will still be there in the event of a court case.

If it is your responsibility to specify the materials and/or appoint the installation contractor, it is also your responsibility to ensure that they can prove competency for the fire protection materials used, or the works to be carried out. It's no longer simply a duty of care or voluntary – it is a legal obligation.

If you knowingly ignore advice that leads to a failure in the fire performance of any element of installed fire protection within a building, you are likely to be found to be just as culpable as the deficient installer.

You share liability for the provision of information required under Building Regulation 16B that tells the user of the building about the fire prevention measures provided in that building. Otherwise, the user cannot make an effective risk assessment under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

In the event of a fire and deaths, a court will want to know how every fire protection system was selected; the basis for selection of the installer; whether adequate time was provided for its installation and whether there was adequate liaison between the different parties to ensure it was installed correctly. No ifs, no buts – it's all contained in the Construction, Design and Management (CDM) Regulations 2007.

Be aware! The time to consider the above is before the event, not after it!

This message is endorsed by:

Local Authority Building Control
Heating, Ventilating & Air Conditioning Manufacturers Association
Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association



Website: www.asfp.org.uk

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BODYCOTE TESTING GROUP BECOMES EXOVA

Bodycote Testing Group, the worldwide testing and advisory business, has been renamed Exova. The creation of a new name and identity, which reflect the company's new direction, vision and values, was prompted by the sale of the business by Bodycote plc last year. The full transition to the Exova brand will be completed by October 2009.

Bodycote Testing Group, which employs over 4,000 and has over 130 facilities in 25 countries, was acquired by the global private equity firm Clayton, Dubilier and Rice (CD&R), in October 2008.

Grant Rumbles, Chief Executive Officer of Bodycote Testing Group said "The new brand is fresh, crisp and progressive and is effective across the diverse sectors and many countries in which we work. We are delighted with the creative results that underline our expertise and innovation. We are looking forward to supporting customers and adding value to their business. They can be assured that that the people they worked with previously will remain the same. There will be no change to the terms and conditions of business".

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ALL-ENVIRONMENTS SYSTEM X FIRE SAFETY SYSTEM

The latest version of Fireco's System X wireless fire safety system incorporates a transmitter unit that is directly wired into the fire alarm panel to automatically signal a fire alarm condition to all linked products.

The System X range offers exceptional flexibility when managing a building's fire safety, with all the advantages of an easy-to-install, standards-compliant wireless system that can be rapidly commissioned. And there's no limit to the number of Fireco's X products that can be sited within range of a transmitter unit, though a site survey must be carried out prior to installation.

System X is a particularly smart solution as it combines the very latest radio communications 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.

System X is suitable for all environments including hotels, restaurants and public areas where there is a requirement for fire doors to be held open and complies to all three categories of BS 7273-4:2007 Actuation of release mechanisms for doors.

For more information

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Website: www.firecoltd.com



NEW PASSIVE INSTALLER APPROVAL SCHEME

A new Loss Prevention Standard has been launched to provide an approvals scheme for companies installing fire resisting compartment systems approved by LPCB (to the requirements of LPS 1208).

The new Standard is LPS 1500 – *Requirements for the LPCB Approval and Listing of companies installing construction elements used to provide compartmentation in buildings*. It complements LPS 1531, the generic passive installer scheme, to enable the third-party approval of all companies involved in the installation or application of passive fire protection products.



Using products and installers that have third-party approval has a number of benefits – for example it helps an organisation’s ‘Responsible Person’ to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (RRO). Choosing a company approved to LPS 1500 or LPS 1531 gives confidence to specifiers, building control officers, fire authorities, insurers and clients that the passive fire protection has been installed correctly. The scheme offers the technical support of experienced LPCB experts to carry out on-site installation checks on a number of selected projects.

For installers wishing to gain approval to either scheme, entry involves an office audit, site installation inspection and on-going surveillance inspections. Once approved to LPS 1500 and/or 1531, installers will be able to issue a Certificate of Conformity supplied by LPCB for each passive fire protection installation. Specifiers should ask for this Certificate to ensure that all passive fire protection products have been installed correctly.

For more information

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‘OPTIFIRE’ INOVATION

Firetherm Intumescent and Insulation Supplies Ltd has introduced ‘Optifire’, a unique product identification system that will be inherent within all Firetherm coated fire-stopping Products.

The system is based upon ultra violet indication technology, whereby applying a UV light source to the surface of an applied Firetherm coating a colour is revealed, thus ensuring the product installed is the correctly specified fire-stopping material. The colours are unique to specific Firetherm brands and will change according to the specification of the product supplied.



The identification system will allow third party accreditation/inspection/fire-risk assessment companies to instantly recognise the product installed and/or ensure that any future repairs or upgrades have been carried out with the same product. It is intended to work alongside the company’s current QC and ISO control systems.

Insurance companies may offer discounts as they now have assurance that the recognised Firetherm and Warrington Certifire approved product, truly is the product which has been installed. Whilst Certifire approved products are listed publicly, until now it has been almost impossible to recognise different manufacturers’ products once installed.

For more information

E-mail: optifire@firetherm.com
Website: www.firetherm.com/optifire

IFC CERTIFICATION LTD WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR OF CERTIFICATION

The IFC Group have announced the appointment of Bob Williams to the role of Director of Certification, heading up IFC Certification Ltd.

Group Chairman, Peter Jackman, describes himself as 'delighted' with the appointment and Graham Wiles, Managing Director of the parent company, International Fire Consultants Ltd, said "Bob joins us at a pivotal moment in the development of the company. Despite the difficult times in the construction industry worldwide, IFC is expecting and investing in growth and our certification business is poised for the roll out of several new strands in its activities. We will be demanding a great deal of Bob but we are highly confident in his calibre and experience."

IFC Certification Ltd will be offering complementary certification schemes for both products and installers, expanding from their present offering of schemes for timber fire doors, steel fire doors, fire stopping, fire resistant glazing systems, door hardware, sandwich panels and smoke control systems. Independent of laboratory affiliations, IFC Certification Ltd is a Notified Body, fully UKAS accredited and is able to assist clients with CE Marking, product assessments and certification.

For more information

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PREMIUM INSULATION MEETS PREMIUM RETAIL DEVELOPMENT

Inherent benefits, ranging from ease of installation through to superior fire performance meant Rocksilk RainScreen Slab from Knauf Insulation was the ideal choice for Westfield London, the prestigious retail development in White City, west London.

Rocksilk RainScreen Slab was used within the external stone clad façade system, stairwell and elevator areas of the £1.7 billion development, which comprises of more than 265 stores, nearly 50 restaurants and leisure facilities.

Taking the sheer size of the development and the anticipated visitor levels into account, fire safety was key and the insulation specified needed to reflect this. With rock mineral wool boasting a Euroclass A1 fire classification to BS EN ISO 13501-1 (the highest classification available) its non-combustible nature means it will not give off toxic smoke nor suddenly ignite in a fire due to 'flashover'. Similarly, its sound absorption characteristics make it ideal for use in rainscreen systems.

Rocksilk RainScreen Slab is lightweight and easy to install. Rock mineral wool is quick and easy to cut on site and is designed to adapt to minor imperfections in a building's substructure. This, together with Rocksilk RainScreen Slabs' natural ability to 'knit' together - ensuring intimate contact at every joint, makes it almost impossible for thermal leakage to occur, thereby maximising thermal efficiency.

For more information

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



ROCKWOOL ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO FIREPRO RANGE

Rockwool has improved its Ablative Coated Batt product following major investment at the company's south Wales factory production line.

Rockwool Ablative Coated Batt will now come in 1200 x 600mm dimensions as standard. It is the only fire-stopping batt manufactured using a fully automated process, which includes the spray application of the ablative coating to Rockwool stone wool slab, to ensure uniform coverage and thickness of the ablative coating.



The new sized product comes as Rockwool also makes its Acoustic Intumescent Sealant available in a 600ml foil sausage for the first time. This will provide contractors with double the capacity of conventional sealant cartridges. A further advantage of the new format is that there is significantly less packaging waste created, as the sausage compresses down to a small disc, which can be easily disposed of in mixed waste skips, creating less on-site waste and therefore, less landfill.

Rockwool's new Ablative Coated Batt has been tested in conjunction with Rockwool Intumescent Acoustic Sealant and can provide effective fire stopping solutions with up to 4 hours protection.

The products are part of Rockwool's 'FirePro' range of fire stopping solutions for service penetration seals (where objects such as pipes and cables pass through fire-rated partitions), which also includes products such as pipe collars and wraps, pillows, and expansion and movement joint seals. All have been independently tested or assessed using the appropriate British Standards.

For more information

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