



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 14

ASFP OBTAINS FUNDING FROM CITB-CONSTRUCTIONSKILLS

The **Association for Specialist Fire Protection (ASFP)** has obtained a significant grant from the CITB-ConstructionSkills Growth Fund to develop a nationally recognised industry training scheme for passive fire protection.

The scheme aims to up-skill contractors involved in the installation of passive fire protection as well as improve the knowledge base of those involved in the design, supply, inspection and maintenance of passive fire protection. It will target three main occupational groups across the sector, including: new entrants to the specialist contractor workforce; contractors within allied specialist trades, such as joiners, dry liners and electricians within the distribution supply chain; and other groups that need a greater understanding of PFP, such as site supervisors, inspectors of fire systems, and building control officers.



Working with its key training partner, the Fire Protection Association, the funding will be used by the ASFP to develop the course structure and deliver a pilot scheme. The syllabus is expected to include a 'Core module' followed by a range of specialist programmes. The courses will include practical exercises, undertaken at the FPA's research and training facilities, while online learning resources will be developed to support face to face training delivery.

Commenting on the funding award ASFP CEO Wilf Butcher declared: 'The new training scheme aims to significantly improve overall standards of PFP installation. It will enable an up-skilling of the existing workforce by creating a recognised and measurable industry benchmark. It is hoped that this will also lead to greater recognition of the NVQ process in passive fire protection.'

For further information, or if you are interested in contributing to the development of the training scheme, please contact ASFP CEO Wilf Butcher on e-mail: wilf.butcher@asfp.org.uk

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ST KATHARINE'S BENEFITS FROM DORGARD EFFECT

Dorgard wireless fire door retainers from the Effects range have been installed at the Royal Foundation of St Katharine in London's east End.

St Katharine's, a charitable foundation dating back to 1147 and enjoying Royal patronage, is situated just minutes from the City and Canary Wharf and provides an unparalleled sense of peaceful seclusion as a venue for meetings, receptions and personal reflection.

'The Dorgards are an excellent solution as they allow us to keep our fire doors open legally and safely. They were easy to fit, and blend in perfectly with the Foundation's elegant interiors,' said a St Katharine's spokesperson.

The Dorgard Effects range, available in a range of ultra high gloss finishes, including mahogany, beech, oak and ash which are designed to blend into a fire door, are designed for the more discerning architectural interiors market to enhance the most sophisticated interior.

Dorgard enables fire doors to be legally and safely kept open as it allows the door to close when the fire alarm sounds, preventing the spread of fire and smoke. Installed onto the bottom of the fire door in under 5 minutes, Dorgard listens for a continuous fire alarm of 65dBA or higher.

The wireless units feature fail-to-safe technology, automatic night-time release and comply with BS EN 1155.



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NEW FIRAS SCHEME FOR SMOKE CONTROL SYSTEMS

Warrington Certification Ltd has announced a new FIRAS certification scheme for Smoke Control Systems. Developed in conjunction with the Smoke Control Association, the scheme provides further credibility for installers of fire safety systems, and reassurance to specifiers and designers of the level of safety being applied.

According to Phil Sargent, Installer Company Schemes Operations Manager at Warrington Certification, the scheme was developed to help meet market demand.

'It is becoming increasingly important to provide the highest level of compliance throughout fire safety systems, and this provides the reassurance the market seeks in this respect,' he declared.

Will Perkins, chairman of the Smoke Control Association working party on third party certification, emphasised that the scheme is available for all installers large and small.

'By attaining this scheme, an installer is demonstrating best practice and adherence to rigorous procedures in regulations and processes in smoke control and fire safety,' he said.

'Smoke control is becoming an integral part of fire safety protocols and life-safety critical systems and should not be underestimated. This scheme recognises its place in the development of processes to ensure all appropriate measures are in place when fire safety systems are designed and installed.'

FIRAS offers UKAS-accredited voluntary, third party certification for installation contractors of both passive and active fire protection systems, certificated contractors subject to an annual audit and ongoing random inspections to assess competence and workmanship.

For further information on the new smoke control scheme, contact Will Perkins at the Smoke Control Association, e-mail: smokecontrol@feta.co.uk

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Website: www.warringtonfire.net



IFC CERTIFICATION EXPANDS SERVICES

Increasing demand for its certification services has led **IFC Certification Ltd (IFCC)** to make some significant changes during 2012, including the appointment of a new Associate Director and the introduction of a new Fire Risk Assessor Certification Scheme.

To assist with its business expansion, IFCC has appointed Ian Woodhouse as Associate Director. Certification Director Bob Williams said, 'We are delighted to welcome Ian to the IFCC team. He joins a fast moving and growing organisation at IFCC where we welcome new ideas and initiatives.'

'Ian is a great asset and team player who is very well known and respected in the certification and fire sector having worked in it for over 30 years. Ian will be helping IFCC to expand the business, delivering client-focused certification schemes that will add value for our clients.'

The new Fire Risk Assessor Certification Scheme (0099), which is open to sole traders, professional organisations and companies conducting their own fire risk assessments, has been developed over the last two years and is compliant with the Competency Council Criteria for Fire Risk Assessors.

Having been involved in the Fire Risk Assessment Competency Council since its inception, IFCC has developed its new scheme in line with the Council guidelines, best practice and market requirements. The scheme, which is currently going through the UKAS accreditation process, offers additional provisions and features that will provide extra assurance to scheme members and their end-user clients.

IFCC, is a member of the internationally renowned International Fire Consultants IFC Group, providing independent third party certification of fire protection products and systems, installers and site inspection.

E-mail: info@ifccertification.com
Website: www.ifccertification.com



NEUTRON FIRE TECHNOLOGIES ACQUIRES ABESCO

ASFP member **Neutron Fire Technologies** has acquired the Scottish passive fire protection company Abesco Ltd.

The company, which has been renamed Abesco Fire Ltd, has over 25 years of experience and expertise in the manufacture and supply of passive fire protection products to the global construction and marine markets.

Both companies have created new websites to showcase the extensive range of products now available, which includes fire seals and intumescent and ablative coatings for steel, wood and electrical cables.

The companies are investing heavily to satisfy increasingly demanding customer and regulatory requirements. All Abesco Fire products are supported by comprehensive certification to national and international standards. Its in-house fire test furnace allows for the development of new products, as well as for the investigation of bespoke solutions to particularly complex fire protection requirements.

Meanwhile, Neutron Fire Technologies Ltd recently achieved a European Technical Approval and CE mark for its Firebreak 22 fire resistant and acoustic, acrylic sealant. Both companies have a number of products in development which aim to achieve the same certification during upcoming months.

'Bringing Abesco Fire into the group is definitely a milestone development and allows us to significantly extend our scope of capability to customers worldwide. We will invest to build upon Abesco's long lasting and successful customer relationships,' said Neutron Technologies Managing Director, Luke O'Keefe.

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SIDERISE INSULATION PROMOTES FAÇADE PROTECTION

With the number of high profile fires in tall buildings on the increase, the correct specification of fire protection measures in cladding and façade systems can play a critical role in saving both lives and property.

Siderise Insulation, in conjunction with the Building Research Establishment (BRE) and the Centre for Window and Cladding Technology (CWCT), is promoting a conference that will address many issues around the fire protection of façades, as well as the imminent introduction of CE marking for curtain wall systems.

The conference will be hosted at the BRE, Watford on the 1st November 2012. There will be seven presentations throughout the day. The £75.00 (+VAT) enrolment fee will include lunch and a tour of the BRE Innovation Park.

There will also be exhibits from Siderise, Rockpanel, the Association for Specialist Fire Protection, the CWCT and Sharpfibre Ltd.

For details of the full agenda and speakers please visit <http://www.siderise.co.uk/conference.asp> where you can reserve tickets for the event.

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FIREPRO RANGE OFFERS TOTAL PROTECTION

ROCKWOOL's FIREPRO® range offers a total fire stopping and fire protection solution which enables specifiers to tender their whole project using ROCKWOOL® products, while helping architects, contractors and developers to create safer buildings.

The comprehensive range includes specialist products for protecting steel and concrete structures; cavities; joints; process pipes; heating, ventilation and air conditioning; and penetration seals.

FIREPRO® fire barrier systems prevent fire within roof and ceiling voids. The company offers products to protect beams, columns and other structural elements, while its fire duct materials can be used to provide 1 or 2 hours of fire protection to rectangular and circular ventilation and smoke extract steel ductwork.

FIREPRO® specialist firestopping products protect service penetrations made by plastic and metallic pipes, ducts, power and data cables. Every product in the range is designed to ensure that the fire resistance of protected walls, floors and roofs is never compromised by service penetrations or voids.

Fire resistance products in the range include high expansion intumescent sealants, intumescent pillows and fire resistant compounds, as well as a full range of pipe wraps and collars, plus specialist products for heating, ventilation and air conditioning protection.

Most of ROCKWOOL's products are third party accredited under a UKAS scheme.

For further information on the range, download the free FIREPRO® Product Manual from www.rockwool.co.uk.



E-mail: bob.westcombe@rockwool.com
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PROTECTA OBTAINS UK CERTIFICATION

European passive fire protection supplier **Protecta** has embarked on an extensive test programme to ensure that its products are fully compliant to the latest stringent UK standards.

The company's three core products; EX Mortar, FR Acrylic and FR Board have all received full certification, as have complementary products such as collars and wraps that were tested as an integral part of the penetration seal testing.

The initial tests, conducted by Exova Warringtonfire, mark the start of a twelve month testing programme for the wider product range, which will result in the certification of a further 24 products.

Dave Oram, International Sales Manager at Protecta, said, 'The majority of our products already carry full European test certification. By investing in this additional programme of rigorous testing we will give specifiers, contractors and installers complete peace of mind and the knowledge that the products they are using not only meet, but in many cases exceed, the minimum performance requirements. There is no room for compromise or uncertainty when it comes to fire protection.'

Chris Johnson, Principal Certification Engineer, Warrington Certification Limited commented, 'To date we have only tested a few products from Protecta's range for CERTIFIRE Approval, but from the results obtained, and in view of what I have seen in the laboratories, this appears to be a robust and high performing range of products that will be a welcome addition to the UK market.'



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NORMAN MACDONALD JOINS FIREMAC

Passive fire protection manufacturer **Firemac Limited** has appointed Norman Macdonald as the company's Technical Director.

Mr Macdonald will oversee the testing programme for all of Firemac's products, including fire resisting ductwork, walls and ceilings. He will be responsible for developing new products from design to testing, and will be the first point of contact for technical enquiries, working with consultants and specifiers to ensure that all of their technical requirements are met.

Extremely well known and respected throughout the industry, Mr Macdonald has over 36 years of experience in technical positions within the passive fire protection field. Before joining Firemac, he worked at BRE (Building Research Establishment) for almost 10 years as a Senior/Principal Consultant. Prior to this he worked for over 23 years with Promat Fire Protection Ltd and Cape Calsil Ltd, two large international manufacturers. He also worked as a fire test engineer at the FIRTO (LPC/BRE) laboratories and has been a representative on several BSI and CEN standards technical committees.

Welcoming him to the team, Firemac's Managing Director Donald Mackay said 'We are delighted to have Norman on board. He brings huge experience and is highly respected, and will be central in ensuring Firemac's products continue to meet the needs of our customers'.



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FREE RRFSO SEMINAR FROM CHILTERN FIRE

Chiltern International Fire (CIF) is offering a free half-day seminar on *Fire Protection Measures– Understanding Your Responsibilities* on Thursday 25 October at the County Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne.

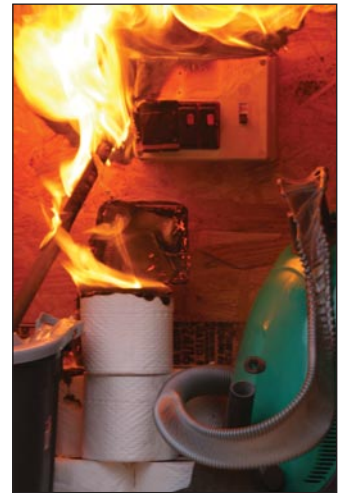
The aim of the event is to raise awareness of people's responsibilities under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (RRFSO). Presentations will focus on three primary areas: passive fire protection, which is the fire safety measures built into a structure; the importance of competent fire risk assessors; and the benefits of third party certification with respect to products and personnel.

The day is designed for facilities and estates managers, fire and rescue services, housing associations, local authorities, managers of public buildings, including those in the education and health sectors, hotel and guest house owners and managers.

The programme is delivered by experts in their specific fields, from CIF, the Association of Specialist Fire Protection, the Fire Protection Association, BM TRADA Certification and law firm Browne Jacobson, and provides comprehensive coverage of the requirements of the RRFSSO.

Peter Barker, CIF senior consultant, said: 'This will be our third free seminar on raising awareness to the implications of the RRFSSO, and feedback has been extremely positive. It's imperative that people named as "responsible person" under the order fully understand what is meant by compliance – and the popularity of our seminars proves that there is a real demand for this information, which we are happy to provide.'

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FIRESTOPPING MADE SIMPLE BY PFC COROFIL

Sealing service penetrations in plasterboard partitions can be time consuming and expensive but **PFC Corofil** has developed an easy, fast and comprehensive solution for firestopping dry walls.

With no need to frame out openings, PFC Corofil Coated Panels can be surface-mounted to the faces of the plasterboard, providing up to a 2 hour fire rating for plastic pipes, metal pipes and cable trays. Panels are installed with a 100mm overlap on to the plasterboard and fixed using 75mm long dry wall screws and steel penny washers.

The system offers a major advantage in sealing plastic pipes. The Coated Panels are cut leaving a 25mm annular gap around the pipe. This is filled with PFC Corofil HE Firestop Sealant, making it an alternative to wraps and collars.



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