



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.

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www.asfp.org.uk

Issue 5

APATHY, IGNORANCE AND DENIAL - ASFP President spells it out

More than 100 guests attended the ASFP annual President's Lunch, at the Palace of Westminster, to hear Brian Robinson spell out the current problems with regard to the control of fire protection in the UK. "I have been questioning whether the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, the CDM Regulations 2007 and Regulation 16B of the Buildings Act were working together to raise installation of appropriate fire protection measures" he commented. "Have matters improved? Sadly, I think not".

He blamed the lack of a national audit procedure and claimed that the biggest challenges faced by the industry were apathy, ignorance and denial. He referred to the recent Lakanal House fire, which he said "Gained national media attention because people died. Only then were questions asked".

Disasters such as Lakanal House could be minimised by much tighter Building Regulations, he claimed. If appropriate protection measures were installed in accordance with the Building Regulations, both the human and financial fire cost would be considerably lessened. "The demise of the Clerk of Works is symptomatic of how, piece by piece, our systems for delivering excellence of works in buildings have been stripped away and the matter has been made worse through the introduction of competitive bidding between local authorities and approved inspector bodies" he maintained.

Mr. Robinson said that if the evidence of malpractice or inadequate passive fire protection witnessed by many ASFP members on an almost daily basis was anything to go by, the courts should be overflowing. The journey from the architect's initial design, to occupancy, is one loaded with opportunity for error, compounded upon error. "It is simply not good enough to state that measures exist to ensure against incompetent workmanship, that everyone will take ownership of their responsibilities, utilise properly qualified people and proper independent audits". For a full copy of Brian Robinson's speech go to:

Website: www.asfp.org.co.uk



DORGARD GETS TOP MARKS AT SCHOOL

In order to legally hold open fire doors and help the flow of pupils and staff throughout the school, without compromising fire safety, Hamilton Primary School in High Wycombe has just bought a second batch of Dorgard wireless fire door retainers for its Priory and Hampden Road Sites.

Hamilton Primary's Nick Stewart-Long commented, "After evaluating our original purchase of Dorgards, we found them to be such an excellent solution that we extended their use to other parts of the school. As they are easy to install, we avoided any disruption to the premises. In our view, Dorgards are a neat and effective answer to legally holding open fire doors that more than satisfies our fire safety guidelines."

Hamilton is the latest in a growing number of UK schools and colleges who recognise that the Dorgard range, from ASFP member **Fireco Ltd.** The wireless solution offers the simplest, most cost-effective way of legally holding open fire doors safely in any position and automatically releasing them should the fire alarm sound.



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STATE-OF-THE-ART DUCTWORK SYSTEM FOR NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART CANCER CLINIC

Flamebar BW11 fire-rated ductwork system, manufactured and installed by ASFP member, **Fire Protection Ltd (FPL)**, has been chosen for the new £35.2m London Cancer Clinic located in Harley Street, London. When complete, the facility will be one of the most advanced cancer research and treatment centres in Europe.

Finding sufficient space for the storage of construction materials on site always causes a quandary in London and the problem again presented its own set of difficulties on this project. Versatile Flamebar BW11 is, however, well-suited to this type of installation and to help combat the issue, the ductwork was delivered in modules; thus dividing complex elements into manageable sections.

Flamebar BW11 is constructed from galvanised sheet steel, sprayed with a specially formulated, water-based fire protective compound at approximately 1mm thick. Its unique design of low density and high durability allows it to accommodate induced stress arising from extreme conditions including climatic moisture, structural loading and the effect of thermal-shock during a fire.

Flamebar BW11 has been specified for such prestigious buildings as Heathrow Terminal 5, the Swiss Re 'Gherkin' in the City of London, the Houses of Parliament and the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank's world headquarters at Canary Wharf.

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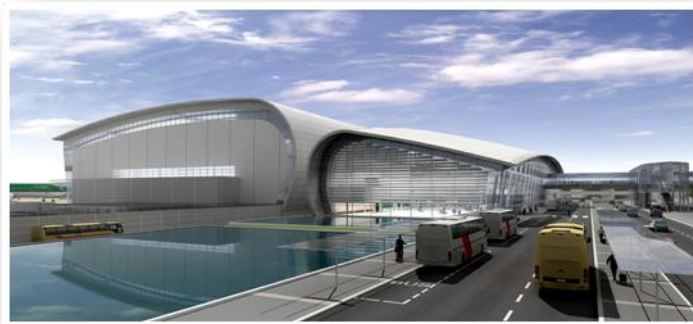
PROMAT PROTECTS DUBLIN AIRPORT'S NEW TERMINAL 2

ASFP member, **Promat UK Ltd**, has supplied fire protection solutions for the structural steel frame of the new €600 million Terminal 2 building at Dublin Airport. Designed by architects Pascall & Watson, the building is the centrepiece of Dublin Airport Authority's €2 billion programme to transform the airport. Promat supplied over 40,000m² of Promat VERMICULUX[®] board to provide two hours fire protection for the structural steel frame.

The lightweight, non-combustible board is specially engineered to provide up to 240 minutes fire resistance for structural steel. As well as its excellent fire resisting properties, Promat VERMICULUX[®] was chosen for this project due to its resistance to moisture. The boards can be installed at any time during the build programme, even before the external walls are complete and the building is enclosed. It will not disintegrate, warp or swell when exposed to inclement weather conditions.

Work on the 75,000m² terminal began in October 2007 and the building is due to open in April 2010. When complete it will be able to handle 15 million of the 35 million passengers who pass through Dublin Airport annually. "The experience we have gained from working with Promat on other projects of this scale makes them the clear choice for fire protection solutions," commented Project Manager, Giles Cranidge, from main contractor, Mace.

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INTERNATIONAL PAINT INVESTS €7.1 MILLION IN FIRE PROTECTION

ASFP member, **International Paint Ltd**, is to invest €7.1 million to build a new testing laboratory for fire protection products at its manufacturing site at Felling, Tyne & Wear. The investment will create 14 new jobs, and secure a further 30 at the site.

“This new facility will significantly improve our ability to satisfy our customers’ current and future fire protection requirements,” said Dipak Mistry, Technical Manager for International Paint’s Protective Coatings business. “The new laboratory will form part of a state-of-the-art centre of excellence for fire protection”.

The company’s intention is to bring new products to the market faster and drive the improvement of fire protection in the industry. To achieve this it will be looking to recruit additional individuals to the existing development team.

“This significant investment in fire protection in the current economic climate is an indication of the company’s commitment to research and technology. We see it as key to our future success in the protective coatings business,” said Robert Taylor, Managing Director of International Paint.

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KNAUF INSULATION ADDS VALUE

Knauf Insulation Ltd has worked closely with Laing O’Rourke and Sheffield Insulations on the specification of over 210,000 square metres of insulation for Roseberry Park, a 312 bed, single storey mental health facility in Middlesbrough.

The ASFP member was approached to solve initial difficulties in achieving the desired U Value thermal performance for the timber framed building.

Both Knauf Insulation’s FrameTherm Roll 40 and Rocksilk Universal Slab were specified. FrameTherm offers outstanding sound absorption characteristics in order to create the best possible environment for both staff and patients at Roseberry Park. Rocksilk was also chosen primarily for its inherent acoustic properties, but since it holds a Euroclass classification A1 to BS EN ISO 13501-1 for non-combustibility, the product also boasts superior fire performance, which is ideal for limiting the spread of fire. Neither does it give off toxic smoke or suddenly ignite, due to ‘flashover’, in the event of a fire.

Stephen Mann, Project Manager at Sheffield Insulations’ Newcastle branch commented, “With a growing amount of timber frame construction being developed, it is reassuring to note that Knauf Insulation has the capabilities to meet the requirements for this modern method of construction”.

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NEW LOADINGS CRITERIA FOR FIRETEX RANGE

ASFP member, **Leighs Paints**, has announced changes to the loadings to the company's entire cellulosic range of intumescent coatings, which now incorporate multi temperature assessments to the recently established criteria for acceptability.

Introduced by the Intumescent Coatings Forum, the new criteria for acceptability aims to harmonize the way in which the industry carries out assessments, ensuring all intumescent coatings are based upon the same criteria.



Leighs Paints range of thin film FIRETEX coatings have gained certification under the new criteria with full multi temperature assessment, providing loadings data for a range of temperatures from 400°C to 750°C. The new data will enable a precise determination of the coating thickness for both structural fire engineered and cellular beam designs, which must now incorporate multi temperature data for the beam's specified limiting temperature, making the process of fire protection calculations even more complex.

With this in mind Leighs Paints has designed and developed a piece of software, the FIRETEX Design Estimator, to improve the time-consuming task of carrying out such calculations. Bob Glendenning, Design Engineer and Fire Estimation Manager for Leighs Paints, explains "The FIRETEX Design Estimator can design and calculate fire protection thicknesses, which are not only accurate but commercially viable. Tackling even the most complex cellular beam calculations, the new software has the added distinction of third party certification by Warringtonfire Certification Ltd.

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LIONS WARM TO ROCKWOOL

Newquay Zoo and Rockwool have partnered to ensure the habits for exotic animals, which include African Lions, Silvery Marmosets and Kinkajous, remain warm despite Britain's recent arctic weather conditions. The Zoo will install Rockwool insulation in its new enclosures to ensure that exotic species, used to steamy tropical rainforests and sun drenched savannahs, remain warm.

John Meek Animal Collections Manager at Newquay Zoo commented, "It is not just humans that need to keep warm in these arctic conditions. While our penguins love the snowy and icy conditions, we want to ensure that all our animals are living in an appropriate temperature, which is also vital to our conservation and breeding programmes.



In addition, the insulation's Passive Fire Protection (PFP) properties will provide vital protection for the inhabitants of the zoo and visitors if a fire was to breakout. In this unique environment it is crucial any fire is isolated, as keepers could be faced with the difficulties of moving wild agitated animals from their enclosure while a blaze is tackled, without endangering any members of the public. Unlike some plastic foam based insulation solutions, Rockwool's products are completely non-combustible which helps ensure if a fire breaks out that zoo keepers have additional time to move their treasured inhabitants to another secure area of the Newquay facility.

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UK'S FIRST SUSTAINABLE FIRE STOPPING PRODUCTS LAUNCHED BY FIRETHERM

The first environmentally-friendly fire stopping products have been launched in the UK by ASFP member, Firetherm Ltd. The company's ECO-RANGE of products has been developed using ECOSE® Technology and contain less pollutants than traditional mineral fibre-based fire barrier products and sealants. As such, the products contribute to the overall sustainability of the construction process and help to achieve targets such as BREEAM and the Code for Sustainable Homes.

ECOSE® technology is a revolutionary, new formaldehyde-free binder innovation (based on rapidly renewable materials) which forms the core of the new Intubatt ECO fire stopping products. The embodied energy is reduced without compromising fire-stopping performance and therefore makes a significant contribution to a building's overall sustainability. The elimination of phenols, formaldehyde and other petro-chemicals reduces the emission of pollutants during manufacture. This, together with the use of new halogen free non-hazardous coatings and sealants, makes the new ECO-Range installation safer and with less irritation than conventional products.

All Firetherm products also have been implanted with Optifire traceability technology. This indicator system enables Contractors, Building Control Assessors, Insurance/Fire-Risk Inspectors and others to verify that the specified Firetherm product has been used, by simply applying a laser source to the surface of the product.

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POSITIVE TEST RESULTS FOR HR PROF

ASFP member, **Fire Retardant UK Ltd**, has achieved further positive SBI test results, from SP Technical Research Institute in Sweden, for its remarkable Eco-friendly fire retardant HR Prof, achieving Euroclass B-s1-d0 (equivalent to UK "Class O") for Spread of Flame. And with an ongoing program of SBI tests on various timber substrates at SP, further result will become available over the coming months.

HR Prof treated substrates have also been tested and passed, the rigorous NT 053 and NT 054 external use weathering tests, where fire retardant treated wood is exposed to 1000hr accelerated weathering by cycles of rain, drying and UV light, before fire testing, according to the cone calorimeter.

Fire Retardant UK Ltd is firmly of the opinion that such accelerated weathering test standards should be compulsory for all external use fire retardants in the UK and that steps should be taken, sooner rather than later, to ensure that products claiming to work in an external environment have been tested to confirm the fact.

HR Prof is very easy to apply by spray, brush, roller or dip. It is already being specified on many large projects throughout the UK, including schools, universities, airports, shopping complexes and many other public and private buildings.

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FIRE STOPPING EXPERT BECOMES PRINCIPAL ENGINEER AT WARRINGTON CERTIFICATION

Chris Johnson, a specialist in fire stopping products, has been promoted to the position of Principal Certification Engineer with ASFP member, **Warrington Certification Ltd**, the independent non-profit company through which Exova promotes UKAS accredited certification of fire protection products and services.

With extensive experience in the preparation of technical assessments for a wide range of construction products, as well as fire resistance tests to both British Standards (BS 476: Parts 20-24 series) and European standards, Chris has been with the Warrington business for more than 13 years and has been promoted from the position of Senior Certification Engineer.

Chris is Chairman of the ASFP Specialist Task Group responsible for producing guidance on fire stopping, which includes responsibility for the so-called Red Book entitled 'Fire Stopping: Linear joint seals, penetration seals and small cavity barriers'. He is also currently involved in producing European Technical Approvals (ETAs) for various manufacturers as a pre-cursor to their products' CE marking.

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ASFP APPOINTS NEW TECHNICAL OFFICER

The **ASFP** has appointed Niall Rowan as its new Technical Officer. Niall takes responsibility for this increasingly important role from Bill Parlor, who has decided to step down after three years in the post.

ASFP Chief Executive Officer, Wilf Butcher, commented "Niall's background is eminently suited to this challenging role. He has an extensive experience in all aspects of passive fire protection, fire regulation and fire standards, both in the UK and within Europe. He has worked in the fire safety testing, certification and fire consultancy arenas for more than thirty years and as such he will contribute significantly to furthering the aims and objectives of the Association".

Niall commented "I am really looking forward to my new role within the Association, which will include the development of the key ASFP documents, representing the Association on various committees, managing enquiries and liaising on technical activities at all levels. I'd like to thank Bill Parlor for his work in developing the technical role over recent years and the Association for giving me this opportunity to become his successor".

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