“How to Select a Firestop Contractor”

Selecting a Firestop Contractor can make the difference between a safe and effective firestopping application that makes effective compartmentation work, and disaster.

1. Is Firestopping one of the contractors’ primary businesses?

2. Does the firm have experience installing the particular materials on the project?

3. Are they FM 4991, Standard for Approval of Firestop Contractors, or UL/ULC Qualified Firestop Contractors? Or, did they just pass the FM or UL/ULC Firestop Exam? Ask for the company certificate, and the individual’s Designated Responsible Individual (DRI) Certificates.

4. Is the Contractor Licensed and Bonded?

5. Does the Contractor belong to the international (FCIA) trade association? Associations provide educational opportunities for employees and workers in many topics.

6. Insurance protection is important to you, the purchaser. Does the Contractor have adequate Workers Compensation, Finished Products and General Liability Insurance as required by local ordinances? Ask for the certificates of insurance and review the coverage and effective dates.

7. Have you seen a reference project listing of similar projects? Call the contacts.

8. Did the contractor provide a written detailed proposal?

9. Have you verified the contractors address, Tax I.D. number, phone and fax numbers?

10. What kind of Management System Quality and Safety Programs does the firm have in place to protect you and their employees? Do they have any certifications? Is their safety record better than the national average consistently?

11. Who will supervise the work?

The questions to be asked for evaluation of a contractor are not exhaustive. Be sure to review proposals and bids for work carefully. We suggest focusing not just on price, but also on quality and the quantified qualifications that make the contractor capable of performing the scope of work on the particular Firestopping Project to restore the integrity of the fire-resistance-rated Effective Compartmentation that keeps people safe in buildings.

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