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Life Safety Damper Maintenance and Inspection
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Effective Compartmentation needs attention to detail, just like any other trade in construction. As an industry, we've been focused on what really counts….Proper “Design, Installation, Inspection and Maintenance” of the Effective Compartmentation Systems. Look inside for articles that support this important concept. From manufacturer testing, to specification by professionals based on clear code requirements, field installation and inspection, and finally maintenance by building owners and managers, we all have an important job to do for fire and life safety.

Join the associations that support effective compartmentation and FCIA because as a group, our education will establish fire and life with compartmentation as a key component. Effective Compartmentation saves lives.

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By Betsy Titus

Underwriters Laboratories Inc. has long been the leader in testing, certifying and rating firestop systems and spray-applied fire resistive materials (SFRMs). UL now offers a certification program for the installers of Firestop Systems and SFRMs.

On Dec. 5, 2006, UL announced the launch of a new program - the Qualified Contractor Program - that makes it possible for specialty firestop systems and SFRM contractors to differentiate themselves in the marketplace through third-party assessment and certification. The new program also provides architects and general contractors - as well as regulatory authorities, material manufacturers and building owners - with a resource to identify contractors that have been evaluated by an independent, third-party organization. UL created this program in response to requests from installation contractors for third-party, independent evaluation of their knowledge and best practices so they can differentiate themselves and increase confidence of architects and regulatory authorities.

“UL’s programs include contractor firms that have demonstrated knowledge and a comprehensive management system that specifically focus on the selection and installation of firestop systems or spray-applied fire resistive materials,” said J. Thomas Chapin, general manager of UL’s North American Fire & Security Sector. “The contractor firm systems audited under this program provide an integrated approach - demonstrated knowledge and management system - to controlling the processes in addressing architectural, AHJ and customer requirements.”

UL Requirements for Qualified Contractors

The Qualified Contractor Program has two requirements for participating contractor firms:

- Individual knowledge assessed through an exam of a designated responsible individual (DRI) who is employed by a contractor, meets the program requirements, and is responsible for a contractor’s management system, staff training and qualifications, and maintaining continued knowledge through CEUs (Continuing Education Units).
- Applied knowledge and best prac-
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practices assessed through an audit of the contractor firm’s management system that is specifically focused on the selection and installation of Firestop Systems or SFRMs.

How the Program Works

To earn qualified contractor status, a contractor firm’s DRI must pass a three-hour written exam. The contractor firm itself must pass a UL-administered audit of its management system, both at the contractor’s facility and as applied on the job site.

Contractors are required to establish and effectively implement and maintain a management system that focuses on the selection and installation of firestop systems or SFRMs. Specially trained UL auditors conduct an audit of a contractor’s processes to verify that processes exist and that they are being used effectively on the job. The essential processes that UL looks at include:

• Construction document requirements and review of building plans, drawings and specifications
• Selection, purchasing, storage and handling of materials
• Installation, application and field quality assurance procedures - transmitting design and installation requirements to the field
• Inspection, testing and calibration of equipment - testing to verify that installed designs meet requirements
• Control of nonconforming materials
• Installer inspections and correction processes
• Training and qualification of staff
• Audits of their own work and processes for continued improvement

How UL Developed the Requirements

The management system requirements are based on ISO 9001 principles that require a complete system of checks and balances, and practices enabling a contractor to comply with established customer requirements. Management system requirements also incorporate selection and installation best practices established by two key contractor industry associations: Firestop Contractor International Association (FCIA) and National Fireproofing Contractors Association (NFCA).

A contractor firm that meets the program requirements receives a UL certificate effective for one year. Qualified Contractors will be reaudited annually to verify that a contractor’s management system continues to comply with program requirements.

Finding a UL Qualified Contractor

Once contractors have been qualified to the program requirements, you can visit UL’s online directory at www.ul.com/contractor. Accessible to architects, authorities, contractors, manufacturers and building owners, the directory contains a list of Qualified Firestop Contractors and a list of Qualified SFRM Contractors.

Qualified Contractors can also promote their UL Qualified Contractor status by displaying the UL Qualified Contractor logo in their promotional materials.

The Benefits of UL’s Program

The UL Qualified Contractor Program provides architects, building owners and managers, plus general contractors a resource to specify, identify and select specialty contractors that have been assessed by an independent, third-party for their knowledge and best practices. Plus, Qualified Contractors now have a way to differentiate themselves from other contractors that have not been assessed by an independent, third-party.

While other contractor certification programs exist, UL’s program has the benefit of being backed by UL’s engineering staff who have years of knowledge and experience with fire resistive assemblies. This, coupled with UL’s specially trained audit staff located throughout North America, provide an independent, third-party evaluation that architects, general contractors and regulatory authorities can look to for greater peace of mind.

Editors Note: FCIA Member, UL Qualified Firestop Contractor firms are also listed at http://www.fcia.org

For more information on the Qualified Contractor programs, contact Betsy Titus at (847) 664-2530 or Elizabeth.Titus@us.ul.com.
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In 2001, FM Approvals issued its new Standard for the Approval of Firestop Contractors, 4991. Issuance of the standard was the culmination of a joint effort between FM Approvals and the Firestop Contractors International Association (FCIA). The purpose of the new program was to provide a tool to improve the installation, performance and reliability of fire stop systems as well as to maintain the effectiveness of compartmentation.

I worked closely with the FCIA in developing the Approval criteria, which brought the quality process into the construction subcontracting industry. When all was said and done, the Approval program contained a number of important contractor firm and individual requirements. In order to become Approved, a firestopping contractor had to be subjected to an office audit of its quality control procedures, an audit of a firestopping jobsite and annual follow-up audits. In addition, specialty firestop contractor firms must have a written quality control manual, continuing education units and demonstrated a working knowledge of firestopping.

From a certification agency standpoint, these criteria were routine except for one major item. I was used to working with products, not people. There were established test methods used to assess a product's performance, but now I was working with people. How was I going to determine if someone was knowledgeable? Keep in mind that I've never had to earn a living installing firestops. How was I going to make a determination of someone's knowledge when the person had been working in the industry for 20 years or more? Then again, just because someone's been in the business for 20 years doesn't necessarily mean that they do it right, or at least right all the time.

This situation was looking like a real can of worms when I had an idea. Possibly the only fair way to qualify an individual responsible for oversight of firestopping operations was to require that a contractor have a Designated Responsible Individual (later given the acronym DRI) who would be required to take a written examination and obtain a minimum score. A contractor could employ more than one DRI but they must have at least one. This would quickly become two exams. One exam would test general knowledge and be based on the FCIA's Manual of Practice.

The DRI Design Selection Examination

By Jeffrey E. Gould

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ing a diploma in the mail. Therefore, the exam would include relatively simple and comprehensive questions to differentiate those who know firestopping and those who think they know firestopping.

Through the years, I’ve pondered going into teaching (where else can you get so much vacation time?) and often wondered what kind of teacher I’d be. It occurred to me that the only times I really learned was when the teacher was tough on me. I knew the exam would have to be tough and that, if anything, I’d rather the exam be too tough instead of too easy. By the way, I think FM has been successful. According to the informal statistics over five years, less than 70% of the people pass the exam on their first attempt.

One common question I receive about the FM 4991 Approval of Firestop Contractors’ Program is; “What are the exams like?” The answer that they contain true/false or multiple choice questions doesn’t offer much. While there are different versions of the exams, I’ve been diligent about not letting copies of the exam questions circulate so that people do not know the questions ahead of time.

This issue provides an example of a typical FM 4991 DRI Design Selection Exam. I haven’t used this example as an actual exam but it’s consistent with ones that have been used, although due to space limitations, questions have been simplified. The actual exam contains five problems similar to these, each with five questions. The exam is closed book and lasts two hours.

If, you feel comfortable after taking the sample exam, consider taking the real FM 4991 DRI Exam and getting your firm FM 4991 Approved.

Designers and specifiers are requiring an FM 4991 Approved Contractor in a large percentage of specifications. FM 4991 is a quality management program where the contractor firm’s quality manual is audited by FM Personnel. The DRI manages the Firestop Quality Process at the contractor firm. To learn more about what it takes to become a DRI, or for more info, visit http://www.fcia.org/fmaprovals.php

A Sample of the FM 4991 DRI Exam

Below is a sample exam to test knowledge of the DRI on selecting a firestop system design to match a condition in the field, or on plans. The answers are shown elsewhere in this publication.

For this problem, use Fire Stop Design 430 (attached), copied from the latest edition of FM Approvals Approval Guide. Read each situation carefully and circle the answer that best answers the question.

Assume the following to be true for each situation described below unless stated otherwise. All concrete is 150 pcf reinforced normal weight concrete. All penetrants are located within the opening as described below and are rigidly supported on both sides. All firestopping, packing and firestopping devices are assumed to have been installed correctly and in the specified thickness and/or quantity. Assume that all ratings are T ratings.

1) The concrete floor is 6 in. thick. The opening is 25 in. x 20 in. The penetrants consist of one nominal 4-in. diameter PVC pipe, one nominal 4-in. diameter copper tube and one nominal 8-in. diameter schedule 40 steel pipe. The penetrants are equally spaced within the opening and meet all annular space and distance requirements between penetrants and the edge of the opening. No insulation has been provided on any of the penetrants. The maximum hourly rating of the assembly is
   a) 1/2 hour
   b) 1 1/2 hours
   c) 2 hours
   d) The installation does not meet the criteria and this design can not be used
   e) 1 hour

2) The concrete wall is 6 in. thick. The opening is 30 in. x 20 in. The penetrants consist of two nominal 8-in. diameter schedule 40 steel pipes. The penetrants are equally spaced within the opening and meet all annular space and distance requirements between penetrants and the edge of the opening. Glass fiber insulation, 1 1/2 in. thick, has been provided on each pipe. The maximum hourly rating of the assembly is
   a) 1/2 hour
   b) 1 1/2 hours
   c) 2 hours
   d) The installation does not meet the criteria and this design can not be used
   e) 1 hour

3) The concrete wall is 4 1/5 in. thick. The opening is 15 in. x 20 in. The penetrants consist of one nominal 4-in. diameter PVC pipe and one nominal 8-in. diameter schedule 40 steel pipe. The penetrants are equally spaced within the opening and meet all annular space and distance requirements between penetrants and the edge of the opening. Glass fiber insulation, 1 1/2 in. thick, has been provided on the steel pipe. The maximum hourly rating of the assembly is
   a) 1/2 hour
   b) 1 1/2 hours
   c) 2 hours
   d) The installation does not meet the criteria and this design can not be used
   e) 1 hour

4) The concrete floor is 6 in. thick. The opening is 25 in. x 20 in. The penetrants consist of one nominal 4-in. diameter PVC pipe, one nominal 8-in. diameter schedule 40 steel pipe and one 2-in. nominal diameter TEK cable. Glass fiber insulation, 1 1/2 in. thick, has been provided on the steel pipe. The penetrants are equally spaced within the opening. The distance between each penetrant and the edge of the opening is a minimum of 1/2 in. except that the TEK cable is in point contact with the edge of the opening. The maximum hourly rating of the assembly is
   a) 1/2 hour
   b) 1 1/2 hours
   c) 2 hours
   d) The installation does not meet the criteria and this design can not be used
   e) 1 hour

5) The concrete wall is 5 in. thick. The opening is 30 in. x 20 in. The penetrants meet the criteria of items 2a, 2b and 2c. The penetrants are equally spaced within the opening and meet all annular space and distance requirements between penetrants and the edge of the opening. The maximum hourly rating of the assembly is
   a) 1/2 hour
   b) 1 1/2 hours
   c) 2 hours
   d) The installation does not meet the criteria and this design can not be used
   e) 1 hour

Jeff Gould is a Senior Engineering Specialist at FM Approvals, and was the original author of the FM 4991 Standard working with the FCIA’s Accreditation Committee. He can be reached at Jeffrey.gould@fmglobal.com.

Editors Note: The Quality Management Process is making its way into the construction industry using programs like FM 4991. Other industries are developing programs like FM 4991 for effective compartmentation components. FM lead the way with this new trend in construction quality programs by developing FM 4991, Standard for the Approval of Firestop Contractors. Life Safety Digest
**Answers to the Sample FM 4991 DRI Exam**

1) **The answer is d.** This design does not meet the design criteria and cannot be used for this application. The design specifies that 1 1/2 in. thick glass fiber pipe insulation be provided on the steel pipe. It does not say that the insulation is optional. The problem states that no insulation has been provided. As a result, one of the items in the opening does not meet the criteria. That means the entire assembly does not meet the criteria.

2) **The answer is d.** This design does not meet the design criteria and cannot be used for this application. At first glance, it might look like this could be rated at 1 1/2 hours. While the description of the pipe and insulation meet the specifications, the listing specifies that only one such pipe can be part of the assembly. Since two pipes are present, the opening does not meet the criteria. That means the entire assembly does not meet the criteria.

3) **The answer is a.** This design does meet the criteria. According to the table, when item 2b is present, the assembly is rated at 2 hours. When item 2e is present, the rating is 1 1/2 hours. The rating of the assembly then defaults to the lowest rating of any of the individual items. In this case, its item 2e and the correct answer is 1 1/2 hours.

4) **The answer is d.** This design does not meet the design criteria and cannot be used for this application. The item that is out of place is the fact that the TEK cable is in contact with the edge of the opening. If you read item 2 closely, a copper tube penetrant can be in point contact with the edge of the opening. All other items must be at least 1/2 in. away from the edge. Since one of the items in the opening does not meet the criteria, the entire assembly does not meet the criteria.

5) **The answer is b.** This design does meet the criteria. According to the table, when item 2a is present, the assembly is rated at 1 1/2 hours, when item 2b is present, the assembly is rated at 2 hours and when item 2c is present, the assembly is rated at 1 1/2 hours. The rating of the assembly then defaults to the lowest rating of any of the individual items. In this case, its item 2a and item 2c and the correct answer is 1 1/2 hours.
Contractor quality issues have been a big conversation piece recently. McGraw Hill’s Howard Mager moderated a panel on the topic at the CSI Show in 2005. Engineering News Record has had several op-ed pieces on the topic. Contractors, building owner groups, such as the Construction Users Roundtable, have asked for better quality installations of all types of building products.

Since 1999, FCIA has been pursuing the Proper Design, Installation, Inspection and Maintenance (DIIM) of Firestopping and Effective Compartmentation to make our industry better able to protect fire and life safety. We’ve built standards that are a complete package for the DIIM of Firestopping, and have approached other effective compartmentation trades to also adapt the strategy.

FCIA and its volunteers have worked selflessly and at their own expense to develop standards for:

- **Design** - Specifications for design professionals at [http://www.fcia.org](http://www.fcia.org)
- **Installation** - FM 4991, UL Qualified Contractor Program
- **Inspection** - ASTM E 2174 and ASTM E 2393 Inspection Standards
- **Maintenance** - FCIA Manual of Practice resources

These four programs have been cutting edge construction industry initiatives that are spreading amongst the effective compartmentation industries. The swinging and rolling doors and hardware, glazing systems, fire and smoke dampers, fire resistance rated walls and floors industries are building programs that are focused for greatest impact on safety for their industries.

Aedan Gleeson, Gleeson Powers Inc., FCIA Accreditation chairman, stated “The original purpose in 1999 of the Firestop Quality Process concept was to create a synergy of all aspects of the Firestopping industry, which has grown to compartmentation as well. Plus, there are benefits that have come to us as contractors.”

Bob Svoboda, president of S&W Waterproofing, Inc., added “Going through the FM 4991 Approval Process has made us look inside at every aspect of our operation, and made us a better company as a result.”

With FM, UL and ASTM, FCIA has brought programs that really have made a difference in this industry and others to the marketplace. With these quantifiable ways to procure firestop systems installations, general contractor, building owner and manager, specifier, architect/ engineer, and product manufacturer all benefit for better fire and life safety to those who live, work, learn and play in buildings 24/7/365.

Gleeson concludes, “Collectively, the summation of FCIA’s goals for proper firestop systems installation, inspection and maintenance for better effective compartmentation fire and life safety have become bigger than each of us as individuals.”

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Life Safety Damper Maintenance and Inspection

By Mark Belke

Fire and smoke dampers are a proven and effective way to protect duct and air-transfer openings in walls, barriers, partitions, corridors and shafts. Since the inception of Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Standard 555 for fire dampers, and Standard 555S for smoke dampers, the damper industry has worked closely with UL and Building Code Authorities to design, manufacture and install the safest, most effective, life safety dampers possible. This article outlines the basic testing, installation, and maintenance requirements for life safety dampers.

Testing

Life safety dampers have evolved from black iron, single-blade, gravity-operated products to the actuated and dynamically rated multi-blade products commonly applied today. During that evolution, the test criteria used to rate life safety dampers has become much more stringent. In addition to the fire endurance and hose stream test that fire dampers have always been required to pass, the 7th edition of UL 555, and the 4th edition of UL 555S, have introduced or increased the pass/fail criteria for several other test requirements.

• Non-actuated fire dampers are required to complete 250 full open/closed cycles.
• Actuated dampers are required to complete 20,000 open/closed cycles.

These cycle tests are conducted prior to the heated-air operation tests, the dynamic closure tests, and the leakage tests.

• Minimum airflow ratings of 2,000 fpm through the fully open damper and 4 in. of static pressure across the fully closed damper have also been established to eliminate “marginal” products from being installed.
• In addition, factors of safety of 400 fpm and 0.5-in. static pressure are used during the testing. A damper with the minimum 2,000 fpm and 4-in. static pressure rating is tested at 2,400 fpm and 4.5-in. static pressure.

These changes to UL’s test standards have been implemented to keep pace with the changes in modern HVAC systems.

Installation

Even with stringent test requirements and improved manufacturing processes, the proper performance of life safety dampers in the field (as is true with any life safety product) requires following the damper manufacturer’s installation instructions. UL requires damper manufacturers to provide installation instructions in each shipping container. Most manufacturers also make their instructions available online. Although installation requirements vary by damper manufacturer and damper model, the following items are generally covered in the installation instructions - the wall/floor framing details, clearance requirements between the damper and the wall/floor opening, duct-to-damper sleeve connections, and how to secure the damper to the wall/floor opening.

Inspection and Maintenance

As with any mechanical device, proper maintenance is necessary to ensure that dampers will operate as designed. Inspection and maintenance requirements are defined by
damper manufacturers, actuator manufacturers, and by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

The most important step in making certain that a life safety damper will operate properly is during the building commissioning process. Chapter 19 of NFPA Standard 80, Fire Doors and Other Opening Protectives, states that “after the installation of the life safety damper is completed, an operational test shall be conducted.” The standard goes on to state that for combination fire and smoke dampers “the operational test shall be conducted under non-fire HVAC conditions as well as static flow conditions.” This also includes fire dampers. The 2006 International Building Code references NFPA for maintenance of life safety dampers.

After the initial commissioning process, it’s essential to implement a periodic maintenance program for a building’s life safety dampers. Chapter 19 of NFPA 80 including fire dampers states, “Each damper shall be tested and inspected one year after installation. The test and inspection frequency shall then be every four years, except in hospitals, where the frequency shall be every six years.” Additional testing and documenting criteria for smoke and combination fire and smoke dampers are specified in NFPA Standard 105, Installation of Smoke Door Assemblies and Other Opening Protectives. This standard identifies almost identical verbiage as NFPA 80.

The damper industry has continued to evolve, providing the safest, most effective products. Products designed to be easily installed and with proper maintenance, provide a long service life while enhancing the compartmentation effectiveness. Keeping up with routine maintenance and documentation allows the system to perform and function as designed and intended.

Mark Belke is Director, Damper Products of Greenheck Fan Corp. He can be reached at (715) 692-6709 or Mark.belke@greenheck.com.
Topics Discussed at Committee Meetings

At recent ICC Code Technology Committee Meetings, three groups met to discuss important issues to Effective Compartmentation - Balanced Fire Protection, Height and Area, and Vertical Fire and Smoke Spread.

In the Balanced Fire Protection Study Group, chairman Brian Meacham discussed the definition of Balanced Fire Protection from other parts of the world, and introduced concepts of community economic losses in addition to fire and life safety as a factor to consider.

During the Height and Area discussions, there was significant discussion about the need for compartmentation in buildings. Additionally, it was brought to the group's attention that the statistical inferences made declaring “safe buildings” were based on performance that included BOTH Effective Compartmentation and sprinklers, plus alarms and detection systems.

The Vertical Fire and Smoke Spread group discussed whether openings made for penetrating items such as pipes, cables, ducts, need to be protected with firestopping or dampers in floors where a transmitting stairway is used where allowed by code. It was pointed out by FCIA code consultant Bill Koffel that, regardless of how big a transmitting stairway connecting two floors is, the rest of the floor was tested as a complete system to ASTM E 119 with fire exposure from one side of the floor, not both. Therefore, leaving the rest of the floor unprotected may cause structural difficulty, as the performance of the floor assemblies is unknown with fire exposure from both sides of the assembly.

Additionally, the group discussed the importance of perimeter fire protection systems, protection of the structure, and definitions. The group will teleconference and meet again in May and June.

ICC 2006/2007 Code Cycle

The Code Development Cycle is coming to a close quickly, with final action hearings in Rochester, NY followed by publication of the changes. Then, the 2007/2008 Cycle starts with Code Development Proposals due Aug. 20.

NFPA Code Development Cycle

NFPA’s code development cycle starts again as well, with July Deadlines for Proposals. For specific info, visit http://www.nfpa.org.

National Building Code of Canada

The Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC) develops and maintains six of Canada’s model construction and fire codes and oversees the work of several standing committees, special purpose committees, and task groups. CCBFC members are selected from across Canada and appointed by the National Research Council (NRC).

A significant revision was published in 2005. The new National Building Code brought a new philosophy of objective based codes. Look for more about building code requirements for Effective Compartmentation from around the world in future Code Corners of Life Safety Digest.
FCIA & UL Lead Total Fire Protection Systems Symposium

The symposium attracted top design and enforcement professionals. Leading speakers from each fire protection industry, including Alarms and Detection, Effective Compartmentation (US Gypsum, Association of Walls and Ceilings Industries), Door and Systems Manufacturers Association [Overhead Door Co.], National Concrete Masonry Association, Greenheck Inc., Fire Rated Glazing Industry, the Door and Hardware Institute, the National Fireproofing Contractors Association, and the Firestop Contractors International Association) and Sprinklers. A tour of UL’s Fire Resistance, Detection and Alarm Systems and Full Scale Suppression testing facilities took place as well.

“UL was pleased to present a complete look at all facets of Fire Protection”, stated UL’s Chris Hasbrook, vice president of Fire and Security.

“FCIA was pleased to work with UL and organize the program promoting all aspects of fire protection that produce safe buildings,” stated FCIA past president Don Murphy.

FCIA and Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. partnered to provide education to over 80 AHJ’s (Fire Marshals, Fire Inspectors, Fire Educators, Building Officials) and Architects/Specifiers March 15 at UL’s Northbrook, Ill. headquarters in a room filled to capacity.

Look for more UL / FCIA Total Fire Protection Solutions Symposiums to take place in many locations worldwide in the future. Want one in your area? Contact bill@fcia.org.

Standard UL 1479 Revision effective September 20, 2007

UL 1479 “Fire Tests of Through-Penetration Firestops” has been revised to incorporate a change to the way that samples are constructed to test certain F-A and F-C series of firestop systems. The F-A and F-C series of systems cover penetrations through concrete floor/ceiling assemblies and wood framed floor/ceiling assemblies, respectively. Previous to the change, the through-penetrants in a floor/ceiling assembly may or may not have been located within a chase wall on the exposed side of the test assembly to represent the penetrant being protected by the wall in which it was encapsulated. The standards change has eliminated use of the chase wall and requires that the penetrant be exposed to the fire during the fire test. The standard change reflects the need to evaluate firestop systems in a configuration in which, while the penetrating item is protected in a wall, it could be exposed to a fire through other wall penetrations of the wall membrane. This change in the standard has an effective date of September 20, 2007.

This standards change may impact the F, T and L Ratings on those F-A and F-C series of firestop systems that incorporate the penetrating item within a chase wall. As of the effective date of September 20, 2007, all firestop systems published in the UL Fire Resistance Directory and Online Certifications Directory must reflect ratings achieved when tested to the revised requirements of the standard. In the interim:

• Firestop manufacturers have the option of retesting systems impacted by the change to determine the appropriate ratings under the revised test conditions. The ratings of some systems currently certified by UL may not change, while for other systems the ratings may change or the systems may need to be redesigned to achieve usable ratings under the revised requirements.

• Firestop contractors need to be aware of design changes that could impact future work. Prior to the effective date, the contractors should contact the firestop material manufacturers to verify the status of any systems that might be impacted by the new requirements. Following the effective date, the UL Online Certifications Directory should be consulted for UL rated systems complying with the revised requirements.

Firestopping Symposium

FCIA member HILTI, Inc. and FCIA “Life Safety Digest” partner McGraw-Hill, co-sponsored by the AIA New York Chapter, assembled a thorough and well-organized Firestopping Symposium in New York on March 27. The program, aimed at highlighting the positive aspects of Firestopping and Compartmentation, was well received by architects, building owners, fire marshals and firestop contractors. FCIA member Don Donnelly, of T.J. Donnelly, Inc.; FCIA code consultant Bill Koffel, of Koffel Associates; fire protection engineering consultant Joe Razza of Rolf Jensen Associates; plus numerous other presenters with John Valiulis of Hilti, Inc. as moderator, covered important topics ranging from engineering judg-
ments, the benefits of using a firestop specialty contractor, to hospital and inspection case studies, plus compartmentation concepts. Our hats are off to Hilti, Inc., for investing in educating about the firestopping and effective compartmentation industry to important groups.

**FCIA Members Educate**

Firestop Solutions, Inc. teamed up with the Firestop Contractors International Association and the International Firestop Council to educate the owners representative group at the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey about good and bad firestopping. We also know that other FCIA member contractors have spent time educating this important authority, including Premier Firestopping, Inc. and others.

Interestingly, a key topic was engineering judgments. Questions centered on qualifications of the writers of the EJs, and those who are to accept them in the field. More to follow on this important topic.

FCIA member Thermafiber, Inc. presented an excellent Perimeter Fire Containment System program to the Chicago Chapter CSI’s Professional Roundtable. Thanks Jim Shriver, for an excellent program to educate about the importance of protecting against fire spread at the perimeter of a building.

**FCIA at CSI Show**

FCIA’s “Compartmentation Symposium” Education Seminar took place at the CSI Convention. The FCIA Booth at the show had many attendees stop by to support firestopping and effective compartmentation. This program and the FCIA/UL Total Fire Protection Systems Symposium is available on a limited basis to local chapters of CSI, AIA, SCIP as well as building official and fire marshal associations. Contact FCIA for details, bill@fcia.org.

**UL offers DRI Testing**

UL will offer UL Qualified Contractor Program Designated Responsible Individual Testing at three more locations in 2007. The DRI Testing will take place at Underwriters Laboratories facilities in Brea, Calif. July 26, and Research Triangle Park, NC, September 13. Testing is also offered at the FCIA Firestop Industry Conference & Trade Show November 7-9. Watch http://www.ul.com and http://www.fcia.org for more information about testing and FCIA Education Sessions to prepare candidates for the test.

**FCIA Education and Committee Action Conference**

At FCIA’s Education and Committee Action Conference, attendees learned about expanding their service for fire and life safety into compartmentation services. “This initiative will help make buildings safer through educated firms and workers at the project site,” stated FCIA’s president, Mike Dominguez. Additional programs took place on the new FCIA / US DOL Apprenticeship Program, estimating with new software systems, inspection with handheld PDA devices, in addition to programs on fire dampers, fire doors and hardware and firestopping.

Watch http://www.fcia.org for info about the upcoming FCIA Firestop Industry Conference and Trade Show in South Florida Nov. 7-9.

**FCIA Reports on ICC Final Action Hearings**

FCIA testified on several code change items at the ICC Final Action Hearings in Rochester.

FCIA and IFC successfully supported a move to have labeling of all fire barriers, fire partitions and fire walls become which passed and will part of the 2007 supplement to the International Building Code.

FCIA testified in Means of Egress that 70% of the 11,000 high rise buildings in the top 20 cities in the US are located in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Honolulu. Since these cities were built based on requirements for BOTH effective compartmentation and sprinkler systems, then the inference that buildings are safe is a result of BOTH sprinklers and effective compartmentation working together. Building Officials and Fire Marshals from throughout the US heard that BOTH should be part of the International Building Code.

FCIA also supported Utah Building Official Gilbert Gonzalez to have either the ASTM E 2174 & ASTM E 2393 Firestop Inspection Standards, or an FM Approved or UL Qualified Contractor become a requirement, which did not pass.

Although not all that FCIA supported passed, the effective compartmentation industries did receive much positive exposure during the code development hearings...and we made some new friends.
Life Safety Digest 2007 Industry Calendar

**June 20 to 22**
Construction Specifications Institute CSI Show, Baltimore

**July 9 to 13**
National Association of State Fire Marshals, Atlanta

**July 21 to 24**
BOMA North American Commercial Real Estate Congress and the Office Building Show, New York

**July 26**
UL Qualified Firestop Contractor Program DRI Testing, San Jose, Calif.

**Aug. 20**

**Aug. 23 to 25**
Fire and Rescue International (IAFC), Atlanta

**Sept. 13**
UL Qualified Firestop Contractor Program DRI Testing, Research Triangle Park, N.C.

**Sept. 17**
International Firestop Council, Cleveland

**Oct. 14 to 19**
Society of Fire Protection Engineers Professional Development Conference and Exposition, Las Vegas

**Oct. 15 to 20**
Door and Hardware Institute Conference & Exposition, Nashville, Tenn.

**Oct. 21 to 25**
SMACNA Annual Convention, Phoenix

**Nov. 7 to 9**
FCIA Firestop Industry Conference & Trade Show, South Florida

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