FCIA Accreditation Committee

Proposed Changes to the UL Qualified Firestop Contractor Program & FM 4991 Standard for the Approval of Firestop Contractors

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Current Programs

FM 4991
- Established 2001
- 2011: 85 approved contractors
- Specifications 078400
- Yearly audit
- Cost to be approved:
  - Set up: variable
  - Annual audit $3,000

UL QFSCP
- Established 2007
- 2011: 23 qualified contractors
- Specifications 078400
- Yearly audit
- Cost to qualify:
  - Set up: $6,000
  - Annual audit $3,000
Proposed Changes to the UL Qualified Firestop Contractor Program & FM 4991 Standard for the Approval of Firestop Contractors
FCIA Accreditation Committee Discussions

FM Approvals

• New FM 4991 Program?
• FM Approved Firestop Contractor Standard NEW AND IMPROVED?

Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.

• New UL Qualified Firestop Contractor Program?
  • UL Alarm Company Programs
  • UL Lightning Protection Programs
  • UL Qualified Firestop Contractor Program NEW AND IMPROVED?
Alarm Certificate Program

• Audit company Orders certs for premises where alarm is installed at...automatically issued using UL’s automated system.

• Random sampling inspection of premises by UL personnel, that the alarm system was installed to UL Standards.

• UL visits the alarm installation company 4x year

• UL Randomly picks building to go inspect, and does.

• UL visits buildings where the installation takes place, verifies that the installation is to UL Requirements.

• UL Must have access to the building after occupancy.

• Certificate issued...renewal with service provider contract (Contractor).
Lightning Certificate Program

• Installers (contractors) are Audited by UL…Listed Installer (UL Qualified)
• The contractors apply for applications for buildings
• UL conducts 100% inspection of that building
• If required by spec, scope of work.
• UL gets 5-20% of the Lightning Protection Projects….it is in MasterSpec.
• Specs ask for Master Label…
• UL must have access to the building…
• UL Master Label Certificate, issued to installer, who can pass on to building owner.
• Certificate shipped to the contractor electronically at time of installation completion.
• Certificate good for 5 years…
• Contract with building owner part of industry practice…UL visit yearly.
Differences

Alarm Program
• Random inspections (up to 4 times a year)
• All buildings receive certificate (if use UL contractor in Alarm Program)
• Certificate renewed based on maintenance contract

Lightning Program
• 100% inspection of building
• Job specific -- only buildings receive certificate if specified
  – 5 – 20% of what’s in Masterspec
• Certificate is good for 5 years
Costs of Alarm & Lightning Program:

- **Annual Maintenance Fee** - $1000 for listing in directory.
- **Inspection costs** – if requested, based on size of the perimeter of the building...$600 - $1400 - $1700.
Provide either of the following:

CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMANCE – Firestopping shall be installed by an FM 4991 Approved Firestop Contractor and/or UL Qualified Firestop Contractor. The installer shall issue to AHJ or Owner a Certificate of Conformance confirming that the work has been carried out in accordance with specifications.

AND/OR

Proposed Enhancements to Existing UL QFSC

• Current program remains intact

• Proposed enhancements include:
  – UL, a credible third party inspection agency, inspecting to ASTM-E 2174/2393 standard, and issues certificate of compliance to AHJ, owners, etc.
  – Certificate issued for all jobs (e.g. Alarm) or job specific (e.g. Lightning)
Proposed Enhancements to Existing UL QFSC

• Current program remains intact
• Costs will be based on
  – Alarm Program
  – Lightning Program
Benefits to Firestop Contractors

- Value to the owner
- Value to the GC
- Higher industry qualifications standards
- Potential maintenance contracts
- Certificate of inspection on file for AHJ
- Quality FSC vs. the trades
Discussions & Questions

- Would you like to see an enhanced program?
- What program would you prefer?
- How much are you prepared to pay?
- Do you see the added value for customers?
- Can you see the benefits?
For more information on Alarm & Lightning programs:

Alarm:

Lightning: