

IFC DONATES TO AFSCC FAST TRACK CAMPAIGN

**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE :**

IFC Continues Public Relations Program	2
Inspector Training Modules to go Online	2
Code Changes Submitted to ICC and NFPA	3
FCIA Joint Meeting Scheduled	3
Revisions to UL 1479	4
IFC Planning Web Site Enhancements	4
Quarterly Newsletter Launched	5

While IFC code activities focus on ensuring firestopping requirements in the codes are solid, the Alliance for Fire and Smoke Containment and Control (AFSCC) ensures building codes do not move away from the use of fire and smoke containment through compartmentation. However, there has been tremendous pressure in the code development process to offer incentives for the installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems by “trading-off” passive fire protection elements such as fire-rated walls and floors when sprinklers are installed. The 2000 IBC building code has the largest number of sprinkler trade-offs ever allowed in any U.S. building code.

To counter the effect of sprinkler trade-offs, the AFSCC has had an awareness campaign on the need for passive fire protection in sprinklered and unsprinklered buildings. The goal is to defend code requirements for fire compartmentation and remove or soften some of the sprinkler trade-offs. To date, the AFSCC has launched educational initiatives, sponsored independent research and fire data analysis, been actively involved in code hearings, and expanded its outreach to the general consumer media.

Because the sprinkler trade-offs that were inserted into the 2000 IBC are becoming more recognized as the

norm (making them difficult to remove) the AFSCC has started a more aggressive push to impact the current code revision cycle that will result in the publication of the 2006 IBC. The AFSCC “Fast Track” campaign will culminate with the 2006 IBC final action hearings in fall 2005.

To help ensure the current campaign can be executed effectively, various companies in the passive fire protection industry have already donated significant dollars. However the campaign is still not funded sufficiently to execute the full campaign. Given the dependence of the firestopping business on fire and smoke compartmentation required by IBC, IFC members present at the December 2004 Voting Members meeting voted to contribute \$15,000 to AFSCC. The cumulative firestopping industry contribution is especially generous, as a majority of IFC companies have also donated money. If your company has not contributed, or if you are interested in donating additional funds, please contact AFSCC Executive Director Rich Byrne at (914) 332-0040 for more information.

INTERNATIONAL
FIRES TOP COUNCIL

PO Box 1562
Westford, MA 01886
Phone: 877-241-3769
Fax: 978-250-9788
E-mail: Info@firestop.org

IFC CONTINUES PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM

The International Firestop Council has continued to partner with Landau Public Relations for communications support in 2005.

IFC's Education Committee and Landau PR launched a public relations program in 2004 to raise awareness of the association and the firestopping industry. Key results from 2004 include:

- IFC media list and media kit development and distribution
- News release distribution
- Trade show informational interviews
- Byline article requests and placements

- Launch of the disaster letter and sprinkler letter campaigns

In 2005, IFC and Landau PR will build upon its program and continue its focus on priority trade audiences. If you have any recommendations for the public relations program, please contact Phil Zanghi, Education Committee chair, (Philip.zanghi@grace.com) or Hallie Fisher, Landau PR (hfisher@landaupr.com) (216) 696-1686 x 4418. And, watch for the monthly "Call to Action" email issued by Landau PR to see how you can contribute.

INSPECTOR TRAINING MODULES TO GO ONLINE

The International Firestop Council's Web site will soon feature a series of important new training resources.

These comprehensive presentations feature detailed information on the various aspects of firestopping. The modules include:

- Firestop 101: An Introduction to Firestopping
- Fire Protection of Construction Joints
- Perimeter Curtain Wall Fire Protection
- Flexible Duct Wrap Systems
- Firestop System Selection – Listing Terminology

The organization has also developed a comprehensive AIA-accredited presentation for U.S. and Canadian-based inspectors focusing on code requirements and proper inspection of installed through firestops. This presentation is delivered by IFC member companies to inspectors and design professionals. A module explaining the role of the Firestop Contractors International Association (FCIA) is in development.

The training modules are designed to educate architects, contractors, inspectors and engineers

about the code requirements for firestopping, as well as proper design and installation. Developed under the guidance of Phil Zanghi, the IFC Education Committee chair, with technical and graphic contributions from many IFC member companies, the presentations range from 10 minutes to two hours.

"IFC is the industry's leading expert on firestopping," said Zanghi. "By offering easy-to-use, updated presentations, we are relaying consistent, technically correct information about firestopping."

According to Zanghi, future initiatives may include adding notes to each of the slides and preparing a Web cast for online accessibility.

Materials to supplement the presentations can be downloaded free of charge via IFC's Web site: www.firestop.org.

CODE CHANGES SUBMITTED TO ICC AND NFPA

IFC continues to be proactive in developing code change proposals designed to maximize the value of firestopping and compartmentation, while facilitating easier inspection and code enforcement.

Recently IFC submitted proposals to ICC's *International Building and Mechanical Codes* and NFPA's *Building Construction and Safety Code (NFPA 5000)* and *Life Safety Code (NFPA 101)*, including:

- Introduction of quantitative smoke leakage rating requirements for Smoke Barrier walls so designers can predict the performance of these assemblies. The "L"-rating proposals mirror and build upon requirements already in the codes on leakage rated doors.
- Clarification of the minimum qualitative performance expectations for materials and systems used as "smoke seals" in smoke partitions.
- Addition of labeling requirements enabling inspectors to easily identify when a wall assembly is a required firewall, fire barrier, smoke barrier, etc.
- Introduction of temperature rise rating requirements for some conditions where highly conductive steel, ferrous or copper pipes, or steel conduits are penetrating fire resistance rated assemblies.
- Additional cross-references within the IBC to the existing section on smoke partitions.
- In recognition of the critical need to protect building occupants in "areas of refuge" that are intended to be a safe haven for those who cannot exit through normal egress systems without assistance, require walls separating these areas from the adjacent spaces to be constructed as smoke partitions.
- For building and fire officials: introduce references into the codes that identify and encourage the optional use of ASTM E2174 and ASTM E2393 standards for effective inspection of installed penetration and joint firestopping.
- Add references to the new ASTM E2336 Standard Test Methods for Fire Resistive Grease Duct Enclosure Systems into the International Mechanical Code to secure constructions are safe.
- Make code users aware of the existence of a new ASTM E2307 Standard Test Method for Determining Fire Resistance of Perimeter Fire Barriers Using Intermediate-Scale, Multi-story Test Apparatus.
- Require membrane penetrations to be protected whenever a fire resistance rated assembly of any duration is required by code.
- Removal of selected exceptions to the IBC requirements for protection of penetrations of a floor, floor/ceiling assemblies where there does not appear to be sufficient justification.

FCIA JOINT MEETING SCHEDULED

The IFC and FCIA are having a joint meeting at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas on April 27-29, 2005. Both organizations will share joint committee meetings and also hold individual membership meetings during the three days.

The meeting programs and agendas have been sent to both IFC and FCIA association members. Room reservations and FCIA registration information is also available from both the IFC and FCIA.

It is significant that both organizations who are promoting the concept of passive firestopping as one method of providing fire protection to buildings should come together to work on common goals. It is intended that this first combined meeting will pave the way for improved future working relations to improve the industry.

Stay tuned for more details via written and e-mail communications.

REVISIONS TO UL 1479

At its most recent meeting in Washington D.C. in December 2004, some IFC members took the opportunity to sit down with UL and OPL representatives to review aspects of the proposed revisions to UL 1479, Fire Tests of Through-Penetration Firestops.

Of particular interest were the provisions for environmental exposure tests for Intumescent materials, the installation and minimum annular space required around nonmetallic (plastic) pipe systems installed within chase walls, and the introduction of the new UL Certification department criteria for watertightness, or “W”-ratings.

Considerable discussion surrounded the effectiveness of the approach UL 1479 takes to assess the impact of elevated temperature exposure (intended to simulate an accelerated “aging” of a material) on the expansion pressure of Intumescent firestop materials. Amongst other things, the adhoc group considered that a more scientific statistical basis for determining whether a given material has “changed” is needed. It was suggested that confidence limits be established based on standard deviations rather than individual (single) specimen based criteria currently used. It was also noted that activity on environmental exposure of many types of sealants and caulks is ongoing within ASTM E6.

In regards to testing of firestopping materials within chase walls, it was felt that including a more comprehensive method for evaluating membrane penetrations would be beneficial.

In regards to the “W”-rating item, the group was advised that UL is documenting the W-Rating requirements in an Outline of Investigation pending their formal incorporation into UL 1479 and UL 2079. They are in the process of publishing the outline at this time.

UL is considering narrowing the proposed scope of their classification system by reducing the number of categories from 3 to one, and providing additional background information identifying the intended application and the need for the system (i.e. Marine versus building applications). Once the outline is published, UL intends to form a working group under STP’s 1479 and 2079 to consider these requirements and construct proposed revisions to UL 1479 and UL 2079. This is anticipated to occur before the end of January 2005.

IFC PLANNING WEB SITE ENHANCEMENTS

IFC’s Web site (www.firestop.org) will receive a facelift in 2005. Directed by a new Web site committee, the overhaul will be rolled out in phases throughout the year.

“The Internet is the primary vehicle in which people retrieve information today,” said Steve Tyler, president, International Firestop Council. “It’s important that our Web site function as a comprehensive resource about both our association and our industry.”

Based on member feedback, the general feeling is the site is too wordy and low on interactive content.

In addition to revising the copy graphics on the site and enhancing the online literature sales, key updates will include:

- Training modules (see separate story)
- New industry links
- Updated information on codes and standards
- Relevant trade articles and technical papers
- News room
- Membership information

The new IFC Web site will be launched in late 2005.

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER LAUNCHED

The International Firestop Council has launched its new, quarterly electronic and print newsletter.

The key objective of the newsletter is to keep members, prospects and industry partners informed of association news. It will provide an update on seminars, code activity, new research, education and training opportunities, announcements, and other events happening within IFC.

“Our newsletter is a member resource. We are looking to you to provide content and feedback to ensure it is meeting your needs,” said Hubert Dudley, executive director, IFC.

Newsletters are also available on the IFC web site, www.firestop.org. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Hubert Dudley at htdud@aol.com.



“Saving Lives Through
Passive Fire Containment”

Firestop systems continuously protect against the passage of flames, deadly gases and toxic smoke through openings that are created by penetrations, joints and gaps in fire-resistive walls. The materials and systems provide passive fire containment required in modern building construction.

The IFC is a not-for-profit association of manufacturers, distributors and installers of passive fire protective materials and systems. It promotes the concept of fire containment through research, education and development of safety standards and code provisions.

We're on the Web
www.firestop.org
