



ASFP
ASSOCIATION
FOR SPECIALIST
FIRE PROTECTION

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.

To obtain further information, click the hyperlinks below each story.

www.asfp.org.uk

Issue 8

BEWARE THE MIS-USE OF PU FOAMS WHEN FORMING FIRE SEALS

Many polyurethane (PU) foams claim to be 'Fire Rated', often citing a Class B1 or similar performance when tested to DIN 4102, or Class D when tested against European standards. These classes, however, refer to 'reaction to fire' classifications that are concerned with the ignitability, surface flaming and heat release characteristics of the material and as such, can cause confusion.

'Reaction to fire' classifications cannot support the use of the material where fire resistance is required, such as in linear gap or service penetration seals and to help clarify the situation, the ASFP has published a simple Advisory Note (TCOM N15). The Note is designed to give advice on the general properties of such foams, in support of their correct and safe use in fire seal applications.

There are many PU foams currently available on the market. They are supplied in pressurised cans for hand held, or gun application. The foam is normally expelled as a sticky liquid, through long nozzles and quickly expands by, typically, 40 times its original volume, to form ridged finish.

PU foams that are to be used in linear gap, or service penetration applications, must have their fire performance determined by testing to the appropriate national, or European fire resistance test Standards. In the UK the appropriate Standard is BS 476: Parts 20/22 (BS EN 1366-4 in the case of linear gaps) and BS EN 1366-3 for service penetration seals. Once tested to the required Standard(s) it is important that the scope of application of the test results is assessed by a competent person, or organisation, in accordance with current industry agreed guidance and that the product is not used outside of the scope of such guidance without further support from expert opinion.

When CE marking of penetration and linear gap seals begins, extending the scope of application will be undertaken using Extended Application Standards, rather than assessments. CE marking is expected to be mandatory in 2013 when the Construction Products Regulation replaces the Construction Products Directive.

Website: www.asfp.org.uk

ANTHONY BARLOW RETIRES

Anthony Barlow, of Barlow Turner Associates, retired in September 2010.

Anthony was well-known within the fire protection industry and was instrumental in helping to set up ASFP member, **Fire Protection Coatings Limited** (FCPL) in 2002. He assisted in developing aerospace, defence and transportation fire protection coatings to high risk components within the specialist fire industry. His role within FCPL will be filled by Sales Manager, Darren Atkins.

To mark his retirement, Anthony was presented with a large model aeroplane by FCPL Managing Director, Clive Atkins.



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WEDGED FIRE DOOR PROVES COSTLY FOR HOTEL!

A hotel in Paddington, London, has been ordered to pay £27,000 in fines, plus costs, for serious breaches of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (RRFSO) that included wedged open fire doors.

The court heard that the hotel had no suitable, or sufficient, fire risk assessment and there were blocked emergency exits and wedged open fire doors. This latest case highlights a major survey by ASFP member **Fireco Ltd**, manufacturers of Dorgard, which showed nearly 70% of premises audited for fire risk were wedging open fire doors, in breach of fire safety law. In a real fire emergency a wedged open door will allow smoke and flames to spread rapidly with the risk of life-threatening injuries.

Dorgard is the wireless solution that offers the simplest, most cost-effective way of legally holding open fire doors safely in any position; automatically releasing them should the fire alarm sound. More than 350,000, all complying fully with all relevant British Standards and EU Directives, are installed across the UK.



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NEW HSE GUIDELINES CALL FOR FIRE PREVENTION TO BE DESIGNED IN AT THE EARLIEST STAGE

ASFP member, **Rockwool**, has welcomed the launch of the Health & Safety Executive's (HSE) second edition of its 'Fire Safety in Construction' guidelines.

Rockwool supports the HSE's assertion that fire safety needs to be managed from the earliest stage in a building's conception, from the design stage and right through the building process. The need to share information between all relevant parties regarding both the construction itself and the products used, is viewed as a cornerstone to help reduce the risk from fire to an acceptable level.

The HSE's guidance is intended to support individuals' and organisations' compliance with the legal requirements of the Construction, Design and Management (CDM) Regulations, the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRFSO) and the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005. Since the introduction of the RRFSO in 2006 and the associated requirement to produce risk assessments for identifying and reducing potential fire hazards, the need for such information is a vital component for ensuring the assessment will fulfill its intended function, says Rockwool.

The updated guidance specifically addresses concerns regarding higher fire risk methods and materials of construction. It identifies certain building types which may be more vulnerable during the construction stage and provides guidance on the additional precautions which should be taken on sites viewed as being of higher risk from fire.

Paula Bateman, Corporate Affairs Director, Rockwool commented: "These revised HSE fire safety guidelines are a welcome addition to helping improve site safety and promote greater fire protection for construction workers, residents and users of the completed buildings."

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NEW PROMAT MULTI-PURPOSE BOARD OFFERS 4-IN-1 PERFORMANCE

ASFP member, **Promat UK**, has launched a new multi-purpose building board that offers outstanding fire resistance, excellent physical strength, high moisture resistance and good acoustic performance.

PROMINA®-M is a robust, light weight board that can be used in numerous applications including wall linings and partitions, ceilings and flooring, boiler backing, soffits and canopies, service enclosures, roof sheathing, acoustic underlays, wet room flooring and portable and prefabricated buildings. It is manufactured using the latest Promax® mineral matrix technology, reinforced with non-combustible fibre glass meshes, forming a flat 6mm thick board that is suitable for heavy duty, fire resistant, moisture resistant and acoustically insulated applications. As an independently tested, Class A1 non-combustible board, it can provide up to 30 minutes fire protection.



Compatible with different types of building systems PROMINA®-M's impressive impact-resistance makes it suitable for use in high traffic areas and it can be fixed with standard fixings and studs. It is currently available in 2400mm x 1200mm boards and features a smooth, white-front face, which will accept decorative finishes without further preparation.

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UKAS ACCREDITATION DELIVERS CONFIDENCE

UKAS accredited site inspection bodies are playing an increasingly crucial role in providing confidence to regulators, enforcement authorities, contractors, owners, managers and users, that fire protection measures will perform as anticipated in the event of a fire.

Such inspection helps to ensure compliance with specification or regulation and helps to safeguard against increasing costs and liability.

ASFP member, **Warrington Certification** (part of the Exova testing group) is fully accredited to ISO 17020, by UKAS, for the scope of installed fire protection and as a result, operates independently of any commercial influence in all inspection assignments undertaken.



With more than 25 years experience, Warrington Certification has a long tradition of successfully delivering services to a vast array of clients in the field of fire protection.

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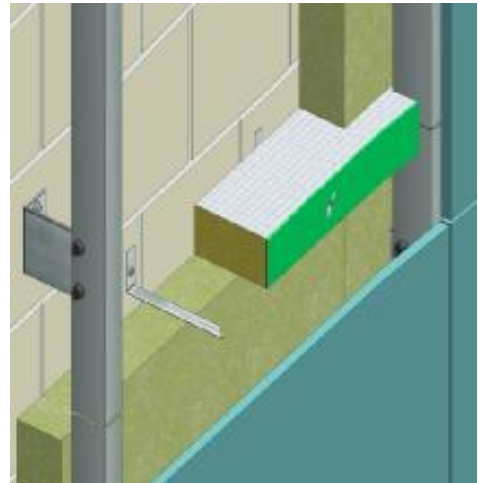
NEW RAINSCREEN TECHNOLOGY FROM SIDERISE

ASFP member, **Siderise Insulation Ltd**, manufacturers of the 'Lamatherm' range of passive fire protection materials, is at the forefront of product development and testing regimes.

The company's latest developments are the revised and improved 'Lamatherm CW-RSH and CW-RSV' systems, both of which have been specifically developed as cavity barriers for utilisation within rainscreens and other ventilated façades.

Lamatherm CW-RSH and CW-RSV will ensure that the contractor complies with the requirements of Approved Document B, which stipulates a minimum performance of 30 minutes for both fire integrity and just as importantly, insulation. Both products have been tested to BS476 part 20 and can be used for applications where up to 60 minutes is required.

The systems utilise the latest intumescent technology and have market-leading closure times for the open ventilation gap and drainage void, which Siderise considers the most fundamental criterion when dealing with the fire performance of ventilated façades. These fast reaction times ensure that the inclusion of a fire break will not affect the necessary pressure equalization of the façade.



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SCALING THE HEIGHTS

ASFP member, **Leighs Paints**, is providing the intumescent paint for a prestigious new hotel in Turkey.

Construction of the Hilton Sonkar, in Istanbul, will require 2,500 tons of steel to create 27 stories. This will make the hotel the tallest steel framed building in Turkey. The contractor was keen to show off the architectural aesthetics of the building, making FIRETEX FX7000 the obvious choice. FX7000 not only provides fire protection for up to 90 minutes, but also produces an excellent finish.

Leighs Paints unique Fire Estimation and Engineering team and Prosys, the company's Turkish distributor, worked closely with those involved in the project to determine the most suitable coating solution. The project is due for completion in 2011.



Hilton Sonkar Hotel is the latest international project to be won by the industrial coatings manufacturer, as it continues to enjoy extensive international success.

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INTERNATIONAL PAINT INVESTS IN ITS TECHNICAL FIRE PROTECTION SUPPORT TEAM

ASFP Member, **International Paint Ltd**, has announced the appointment of a number of new personnel within its fire protection group including Richard Spedding (Project Leader), Peter Scott (Fire Protection Engineering Manager) and Allan Jowsey (Fire Engineering Manager). These additions bring with them a wealth of experience in chemistry and product development, structural engineering and fire safety engineering from both laboratory-based and engineering consultancy backgrounds.



These skill sets add to the company's dedicated technical support desk capabilities by providing increased knowledge and experience in terms of specification, use and development of materials, fire engineering assessments, structural analysis and methods of construction. The investment in resource builds on International Paint's intumescent fire protection coatings for structural steelwork, which include the company's Interchar range for cellulosic fires and their Chartek range for hydrocarbon fire exposures.

The appointments complement the company's recent development of a new €7.1 million testing laboratory for fire protection at its manufacturing site at Felling, Tyne & Wear, as it strives to form a state-of-the-art centre of excellence for fire protection.

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MORGAN THERMAL CERAMICS PRODUCTS IN SUSTAINABLE BUILDING TECHNOLOGY

The recently constructed R.S.A Suzzara retirement home, located in Lombardia, Italy, features new construction technologies aimed at low-carbon footprint (through improved building insulation), sustainable construction (using natural materials) and good environmental properties of all materials used in construction.

The steel-framed building features extensive use of wood in the facades and internal walling, together with innovative features such as a garden on the roof and a new concept of pre-fabricated walling.

It also incorporates several new product innovations recently introduced by ASFP member **Morgan Thermal Ceramics** that have advantages in sustainable construction and which offer good environmental properties.



Extensive use was made of two low-biopersistence fibre products chosen for their lack of smoke generation in fire due to the absence of chemical binders used in manufacture. Lightweight fire insulation for the steel structure was provided by the flexible-wrap FireMaster 607 Blanket system, whilst thermal and acoustic insulation was provided by Superwool Plus Blanket, a high thermal-efficiency, A1 reaction to fire classified, flexible, blanket with approximately 25% lower thermal conductivity.

Recently developed for improved environmental properties, a new building insulation board 'Batiboard ECO' was also used as fire-resistant thermal insulation in the internal partition and ventilation walls.

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BACK TO SCHOOL FOR FIRESAFE INSTALLATIONS

Over the past six months ASFP member, **Firesafe Installations Ltd**, has secured fire protection packages on 24 schools and colleges associated with the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) scheme.



In addition to working on schools and colleges, Firesafe operatives are also furthering their education by achieving NVQ level 3 in Supervisory Management to ensure that the company meet its clients ever increasing demands.

Firesafe has provided a specialist sub-contract service to the construction industry for more than sixteen years and has become one of the largest specialist passive fire protection contractors in the United Kingdom.

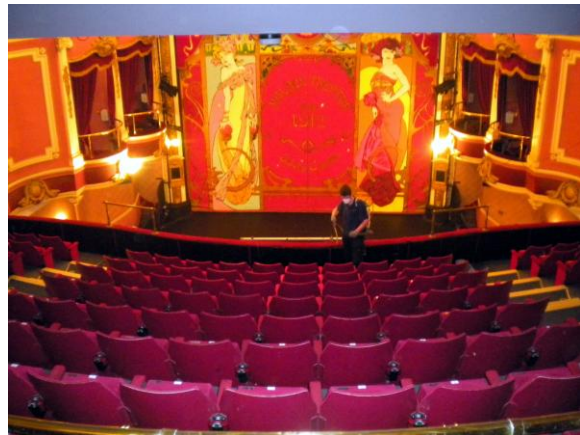
Based in the North West, Firesafe tenders for projects on a national basis and has a management structure that ensures contracts are completed within program and to very high standards in accordance with current legislation, approved Document B and the ASFP's requirements.

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NEWS STORY

ASFP member, **Fire Protection Coatings Limited (FPCL)**, was recently delighted to receive a rather unique enquiry regarding the fire protection of theatre seats at Southend's Palace Theatre.

The historic theatre dates back to 1912, when it was owned by Mr. Raymond of the Raymond Picture Company. By the standards of the day, it was a most modern building of unique design, claiming that *'no matter from what part of the building spectators looked at the stage, there is a clear and uninterrupted view'*. At the time it seated 1500 people, compared to just over 600 today.



The enquiry involved treating existing audience seats with FabFire F2 flame retardant, provided to FPCL by its sister company Fire Protection Developments (FPD). FabFire F2 is a waterborne product that prevents the spread of flame, thus protecting a wide range of synthetic and natural fabrics. All 607 seats in the stalls, circle and gallery areas have now been protected for a further 12 months.

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