

Approval Standard

Approval of Firestop Contractors

Class Number 4991
October 2013



Member of the FM Global Group

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Foreword

The FM Approvals certification mark is intended to verify that the products and services described will meet FM Approvals' stated conditions of performance, safety and quality useful to the ends of property conservation. The purpose of Approval Standards is to present the criteria for FM Approval of various types of products and services, as guidance for FM Approvals personnel, manufacturers, users and authorities having jurisdiction.

Products submitted for certification by FM Approvals shall demonstrate that they meet the intent of the Approval Standard, and that quality control in manufacturing shall ensure a consistently uniform and reliable product. Approval Standards strive to be performance-oriented. They are intended to facilitate technological development.

For examining equipment, materials and services, Approval Standards:

- a) must be useful to the ends of property conservation by preventing, limiting or not causing damage under the conditions stated by the Approval listing; and
- b) must be readily identifiable.

Continuance of Approval and listing depends on compliance with the Approval Agreement, satisfactory performance in the field, on successful re-examinations of equipment, materials, and services as appropriate, and on periodic follow-up audits of the manufacturing facility.

FM Approvals LLC reserves the right in its sole judgment to change or revise its standards, criteria, methods, or procedures.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

- 1.1.1 The purpose of this standard is to improve the performance and installation of firestop systems and their components by examining and qualifying contractors involved in the installation of such systems and components.
- 1.1.2 This standard shall be used to assess the ability of responsible individuals designated by firms that install firestop systems and their components to understand the requirements and restrictions/limitations of the Firestop Contractors International Association's (FCIA) Manual of Practice and FM Approval requirements.

1.2 Scope

- 1.2.1 This standard sets the requirements for Approval of Firestopping Contractors who install firestop systems and their components that are listed by an accredited third party testing or listing agency as fire rated construction of specific hourly ratings.
- 1.2.2 This standard examines the contractor's training and education of its workforce, general knowledge of firestop systems and their components, handling, design selection, installation and application procedures to ensure a practical and reliable installation.
- 1.2.3 This standard, in part, assesses the ability of a Designated Responsible Individual (DRI) to interpret and understand the information contained in the FCIA's Manual of Practice and FM Approval requirements as evidenced by satisfying the minimum requirements of written examinations. A contractor who meets this and all other requirements of this standard shall be listed in the *Approval Guide*, an online publication of FM Approvals, as an Approved Firestop Contractor.

1.3 Basis for Requirements

- 1.3.1 The requirements of this standard are based on field loss experience, research and testing, and/or the application standards and advice of manufacturers, installers, users, trade associations, authorities having jurisdiction and/or loss control specialists.
- 1.3.2 Meeting these requirements qualifies a contractor as an Approved installer of firestopping systems and their components. Where the system(s) or product(s) being installed is(are) part of a fire rated system shown in a published listing by a recognized listing agency, listing agency requirements prohibit component substitution or modification to a listed system without prior written authorization by the listing agency that published the listing. Component substitution shall also not be allowed for an Equivalent Fire Resistant Rated Assembly.

1.4 Basis for Approval

- 1.4.1 FM Approval shall be based upon a satisfactory evaluation of the contractor in the following areas:
 - Verification that the contractor has been in the firestop installation business for the two (2) year period immediately prior to obtaining Approval.
 - Assurance that the Designated Responsible Individual employed by the contractor has a demonstrated knowledge of the FCIA Manual of Practice, FM Approval requirements, overall product knowledge in his/her area of expertise and the ability to select firestopping components,

systems and assemblies as shown in a published listing by a recognized listing agency that will meet or exceed written specifications, as evidenced by satisfying the minimum requirements of written examinations.

- An initial, in-house and job-site Surveillance Audit of the contractor's quality control program.

1.4.2 Continued Approval shall be based upon a satisfactory evaluation of the contractor in the following areas:

- Proof that the Designated Responsible Individual employed by the contractor continues to exhibit a demonstrated knowledge of the FCIA Manual of Practice, FM Approval requirements, overall product knowledge in his or her area of expertise and the ability to select appropriate firestopping components, systems and assemblies as shown in a published listing by a recognized listing agency that will meet or exceed written specifications, as evidenced by periodic written examinations every three (3) years.
- Attendance by the contractor's Designated Responsible Individual at FCIA sponsored seminars or equivalent educational courses resulting in the collection of at least six (6) Continuing Educational Units (CEUs) or forty-eight (48) Learning Units (LUs) every three (3) years. Seminars sponsored by the FCIA shall be made available to both members and non-members of the FCIA in order to be eligible for credit. Equivalent educational courses shall deal with topics such as life safety, loss prevention, fire containment, building codes and other subjects at the discretion of FM Approvals. Designated Responsible Individuals may also receive CEU's for giving presentations at industry sponsored seminars with the prior written approval of FM Approvals.
- Verification and proper installation of firestopping systems resulting from annual, in-house and job-site Surveillance Audits.
- Continued satisfactory performance of firestopping systems installed under this program.
- A documented and archived record keeping system for all installations.

1.5 Approval Categories

1.5.1 FM Approvals recognizes that Firestop Contractors may specialize in one or more areas. These areas include, but are not limited to firestop joint systems, floor perimeter/slab edge/exterior wall cavity systems and through penetration systems. For the purposes of this Approval Standard, there shall be only a single Approval category, Firestop Contractor, that will encompass all firestopping systems. Approved Firestop Contractors shall be knowledgeable in and meet the test requirements for all areas of firestopping contained in the FCIA Manual of Practice.

1.6 Effective Date

1.6.1 The effective date of an Approval Standard mandates that all services tested for Approval after the effective date shall satisfy the requirements of that Standard.

1.6.2 The effective date of this Standard is **July 1, 2015** for compliance with all requirements.