

April 27, 2007

Subject: 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.

