

THE FIRESTOP

Volume 25, Issue 8

FCIA & THE ASTM STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

ASTM International is an international Standards organization that develops and publishes voluntary consensus technical Standards for a wide range of materials, products, systems, and services.

Over 12,000 ASTM Standards operate globally. These Standards enhance performance and help people have confidence in the things they buy and use.

There are a number of Standards that impact the firestop and effective compartmentation industry. Standards such as [ASTM E2174](#) (Standard Practice for On-Site Inspection of Installed Firestop Systems), [ASTM E2393](#) (Standard Practice for On-Site Inspection of Installed Fire-Resistive Joint Systems and Perimeter Fire Barriers), and [ASTM E3037](#) (Standard Test Method for Measuring Relative Movement Capabilities of Through-Penetration Firestop Systems) are debated at ASTM E06 Serviceability Meetings at ASTM every 6 months.

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ASTM STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT cont'd

At the last ballot cycle, objections raised by the National Association of Home Builders to adding [ASTM E3038](#) (Standard Practice for Assessing and Qualifying Candidates as Inspectors of Firestop Systems and Fire-Resistive Joint Systems) as an optional qualification for Special Inspectors were resolved. Look for the new version of E2174 and E2393 to be published shortly.

FCIA's efforts to build a Firestop Identification System (labeling) Standard were discussed, getting us closer to balloting and having a Standard. The new Standard started with FCIA's Recommended Practice for Identification Systems as a base, and thanks to collaboration and input from the E06.21 Subcommittee, the [WK70416 Work Item](#) has grown since the effort started. Whether a sticker, bar/QR code, hanging tag, or other identification system, knowing what installed system information should be included and communicated to the building owners and managers, as well as placement distances for labels, should be a standardized practice. That, and continued professionalism for the firestop industry, is what this effort is all about.

DID YOU KNOW...

[FCIA's Webinar Series](#) continues to focus on Firestopping and Fire Resistance in Buildings. With original content from leading speakers, each month's program is packed with solid material for company staff to gain valuable knowledge to set yourself apart from the rest.

The best part? The monthly programs are FREE to anyone who wants to attend. Register anytime.

Upcoming Events

December 25-26	FCIA Office Closed
January 1	FCIA Office Closed
January 8	FCIA Webinar
January 30	FCIA Webinar MENA Edition
February 1-3	FSBI India
February 21	FCIA Webinar
March 20	FCIA Webinar
April 7-18	ICC Committee Action Hearings
April 24	FCIA Webinar
April 30 - May 3	FCIA ECA '24 OKC Education & Committee Action Conference



HILTI

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MEET THE 2024 FCIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The FCIA Board of Directors is a diverse and passionate group of Contractors who have all chosen to give back to the Association and the industry through volunteering their time and talents on the FCIA Board of Directors.

FCIA [Board Members](#) are elected to three-year terms at the Annual Firestop Industry Conference & Trade Show. Board Members are required to attend quarterly Board meetings and regular teleconferences, and are expected to participate on and Chair FCIA Committees. This group of talented individuals works together for the betterment of the industry, growing and developing the industry and working to improve fire and life safety around the world.

This year, the FCIA Board had three Directors rolling off: Mark Dietz, Scott Rankin, and Ben Urcavich. All three have an impressive history of serving on the FCIA Board of Directors.

Scott is an FCIA Past President, has Chaired the Finance Committee for over a decade, is a past-Chair of the Program Committee, and has been an integral and insightful member of the Board of Directors on and off for 20+ years...really, since Day 1.

Mark is a Past President, has served as the Board Treasurer for seven (7) years, has been the Membership Committee Chair, and has served on the Board of Directors for 10 years.

Ben holds the impressive designation of being only the second Board President to preside for two consecutive years (thank you, COVID), as well as being the Chair of the Accreditation, Advisory,



2023 FCIA Board President, Tyler Ferguson, recognizes Scott Rankin for his years of Board service. FCIA photo

and Marketing Committees and International Task Group, as well as participating on a handful of other Committees.

To say this group has dedicated a lot of their time to the Association is an understatement.

At this November's FIC '23, the voting process was tight, but ultimately, Mark Dietz and Ben Urcavich were re-elected. And, new Board Member, Darren Pollock, was elected to replace director Scott Rankin! We're glad to have West Coast USA representation on the Board, not to mention the wealth of knowledge and experience Darren brings to the conversation! While we're sad to see Scott go, we wish Scott and Diane the best as they look to embark on the next chapter – retirement!

And, with that, we proudly introduce the 2024 FCIA Board of Directors! This group works hard and has fun. And, they like each other! Lots of energy, strategically directed, means big accomplishments for the Association, for the Members, and for the industry!



The 2024 FCIA Board of Directors, L-R - Alan Mcdurmon, Jay McGuire, Gus Mancini, Tyler Ferguson, Jerry Dugan, Jr., Joe Wilkinson, Ben Urcavich, Mark Dietz, and Darren Pollock. FCIA Photo

FCIA RECOGNIZES EXCELLENCE

Each year, The Firestop Contractors International Association hosts an awards banquet where we recognize excellence in the industry. Congratulations to our winners!



Melissa Fiore (Hilti North America) was honored with the Industry Development Award, recognized for promoting the Specialty Firestop Contractor Concept. FCIA photo



Ben Urcavich (Performance Firestop) was recognized with the Outstanding Service Award for outstanding support working across multiple FCIA initiatives – Education, Growth, Domestic, and International Outreach – demonstrating truly long-term thinking for the Specialty Firestop Installation Contractor. FCIA photo



Mark St. Onge (UL Solutions) and Eric De Amorim (STI) were the recipients of the Advocate of the Year awards. Mark in recognition of his support of the Specialty Firestop Contractor through outreach and education. Eric (received by Robert Gomez on Eric's behalf) for his efforts promoting FCIA Education to Canada's audiences. FCIA photo



John Sharpe (Pro-Firestop) received the Award of Excellence, for his long-term commitment to Canada's firestop industry through tireless support of Canada-specific initiatives and programming. FCIA photo



Bill McHugh (FCIA) was honored with the Presidential Award for 20+ years of service as FCIA Executive Director, unwavering support, and being a champion for life safety through firestopping. FCIA photo



Incoming FCIA President Alan McDurmon congratulated current FCIA President Tyler Ferguson on a great year with big accomplishments. FCIA photo

A great evening had by all celebrating FCIA's accomplishments in 2023...with a bright outlook for 2024 and beyond.

This year's event was particularly special because families joined the celebration. They even had their own (dreaded) kids table! You know, that was one of the goals of the founding FCIA Board of Directors. They wanted to create a place where career-long relationships and bonds can be formed, with some of these connections becoming extended family. Yes, FCIA works on Standards, Codes, Accreditation, and more, but to connect and become life-long partners, friends, and (yes) family, that's what makes FCIA so much more than just a trade Association. When we invest in each other, we are so much more committed to each other's long-term success.



FCIA family. What it's all about. FCIA photo

THE INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL

The International Code Council 2027 code development processes started before the 2024 I-Codes were published, but the work is ongoing.

The Fire Code Action Committee, Building Code Action Committee, and others have been meeting and are wrapping up work. Their work results in code proposals heard at the April ICC Committee Action Hearing #1.

A recent victory for FCIA Code proposals was FCAC support for a proposal requiring protection of breaches made for gaps, voids, joints, and penetrating items in open and closed parking garages.

Thanks to FCIA partners Ed Goldhammer (Hilti), Tony Crimi (International Firestop Council Consultant), Rich Walke (CTI), and Bill Koffel (Koffel Associates) for their continued partnership, guidance, and participation to create proposals that benefit the entire industry.



EXISTING BUILDING SAFETY - A GUIDELINE FOR INSPECTION

Reprinted from the International Code Council, June 26th, 2023

The International Code Council's Existing Building Safety – A Guideline for Inspection (G7-202x) Guideline Development Committee (GDC) is meeting to develop a new guideline for the inspection of existing buildings based on an initial draft of the Existing Building Safety Inspection Guideline.

Events such as the Surfside Condominium collapse and other recent events in New York City and Davenport Iowa, highlight the need for guidance on the maintenance and inspections of existing buildings.

The goal of the Existing Building Safety Inspection Guideline is to provide guidance to contractors, property owners, building managers, design professionals and code professionals regarding maintenance and milestone inspections on existing buildings. It will provide the framework to assess a building's condition and will address the following topics:

- Structural elements
- Egress components
- Active and passive fire protection systems
- The building envelope (including the roof)
- Electrical, plumbing, mechanical and fuel gas equipment and systems

GDC members represent a diverse cross-section of highly experienced code officials, engineers, construction material and trade specialists. The first committee meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2023, with a recurring meeting every two weeks starting on July 11, 2023.

The final guideline will be released later this year as a reference document to the 2024 International Property Maintenance Code® (IPMC) and other codes and standards as relevant. Once completed, this guideline will also likely transition to becoming a standard.

To learn more about the International Code Council's Existing Building Safety Guideline, [click here](#).

SIDEBAR

A Committee Chaired by ICC Past President and retired Georgia State Fire Marshal, Duane Garriss (who has presented to FCIA in the past) has been working on an existing building inspection guide. The purpose of the document is to provide guidance to building owners and managers, others, to evaluate building conditions over time. Fire-Resistance is included, with FCIA suggestions already provided to the group.



FCIA & NFCA CANADA SYMPOSIUM & NRC TOUR - A HUGE HIT!

This year, FCIA and NFCA partnered to produce the FCIA-NFCA Existing Building Fire-Resistance Symposium Canada in Ottawa, ON.

The annual educational Symposium (www.FCIA.org) had a full room this year with the National Fireproofing Contractors Association added as a co-organizer of the event. Not only did the partnership add NFCA Members to the room, but it also added structural fire-resistance to the education sessions. Structural building elements support fire-resistance-rated effective compartmentation – fire separations.

The visit to the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) Fire Test Laboratory and interaction with NRC Research Staff brought the facility's role in life safety front and center. Many thanks to Andre LaRoche, NRC's Senior Technical Advisor Fire Safety, for organizing the tour.



Andre Laroch (NRC) presents during the Canada Symposium. FCIA photo



The group was able to tour the NRC Fire Test Facility in Ottawa, ON and hear from NRC Staff on the fire test process. FCIA photo



'The Future Looks 'DIIM'...and That's Good!'
with Rich Walke (CTI) and Mike Kerrison (Alkegen)

Monday, January 8, 2024
10:00 am - 12:00 pm CST



TRAINING TOOLS



Maya Angelou once said, "Do the best you can, until you know better. Then, when you know better, do better."

She's right. Doing better is the result of preparation, hard work, learning, and persistence through failure.

But, when it comes to fire and life safety, there is no room for failure.

As a Specialty Firestop Installation Contractor, it is expected that we ARE better. From the top down, owner to field workers, we have a responsibility to be the experts in firestopping and effective compartmentation that others aren't. We know this.

So, how do you build this expertise within your organization, within your team, and still have time to run your business? With the [FCIA Education Program \(FEP\)](#).

With more than 30-hours of expert-led, self-paced online education, you will develop a team of firestop experts without having to spend hours away from doing what you need to do to lead your team. You can monitor your team's progress, identify areas that may need more individual hands-on teaching.

With the FEP, you'll give students an understanding of what a firestop system is, what fire-resistance is, and how their work maintains that. But most importantly, you'll give students an understanding of what they're doing and why they're doing it.

And that is the gift that you can't put a price on.

So, this holiday season, give the gift that keeps on giving.

Give Success. Yours. And Theirs.

Get the [FCIA Firestop Education Program](#).

Oh, and big thanks to FCIA's Education Committee for their critical review and development of the program, the content, and the portal. It's because of their keen eyes that an Admin module was added and that a Firestop Level 0 Program is in the works

NEW MEMBER Welcome

FCIA works hard to spread the word of the **'DIIM' of Firestopping** around the world, encouraging all interested Specialty Firestop Installation Contractors, Special Inspection Agencies, Associates, Manufacturers, and more to become involved to grow the industry's call for better fire and life safety.

FCIA proudly welcomes new members, and we thank them for their support and commitment to the Firestop industry.

Thank you to all current members, as well, for helping to grow FCIA and the Specialty Firestop trade, resulting in improved fire and life safety systems.

FCIA New Contractor Members

- Alto FSI - Cleveland, OH
- Chaparral Insulation Co., Inc. - Waco, TX
- Firestop Guys - Taylorville, TX
- JT Thorpe - Sparks, NV
- Majestic Construction West - Albuquerque, NM
- Sergent Construction - Santa Paula, CA
- Tri-Phase Interiors LLC - Wylie, TX

FCIA New Contractor International Members

- Thermal Arabia Trading and Contracting Co. - Doha, Qatar

FCIA New Associate Members

- Atlantic Engineering Laboratories, LLC - Avenel, NJ
- Copper Range Technologies, Inc. - Troy, MI

FCIA Members: Do you have more than one Branch location? Make it easier to be found worldwide with a 'Branch Membership and Listing' at www.FCIA.org. Questions? Email cathy@fcia.org and we'll fill you in.

Do you know a company that should be an FCIA member? Send them our way at cathy@fcia.org, and we'll follow up (and get you in the running for the Industry Development Award)!



DID YOU KNOW...

That there is a North American Industry Classification Code (NAICS) for Firestop Contractor Services? An O-Net Code for Firestop/Containment Workers? There is much more at FCIA's [Members Only](#) Section of www.FCIA.org.

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