

# THE FIRESTOP

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# FCIA CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

The Firestop Contractors International Association (FCIA) celebrated 25 years this November in Palm Springs, CA USA at FIC '24, the FCIA Firestop Industry Conference, and boy did we pull out all the stops. This year's event boasted record attendance, the largest trade show to date, and dynamite education sessions with the leading industry experts. Combine all that with an Anniversary Awards celebration, Casino Night, and a one-of-a-kind FCIA casino-themed drone show, and the event truly made for a memorable time.

But it wasn't just fun and games at FIC '24. We also took a walk down FCIA's memory lane to pay homage to our beginnings and our growth.

In a touching speech, Aedan Gleeson, FCIA's first ever Board President, offered up that, "The Association has made a difference in this industry, creating better fire and life safety through firestopping and passive fire protection, worldwide."

To get the 'DIIM'™ built, FCIA's founding Board developed the strategy. This strategy was implemented by FCIA Committees whose members (supported by staff) worked and "got stuff done". Then, FCIA leadership attended and spoke at CSI/CSC Specification Association Conferences, the International Code Council and NFPA Expo's & Building and Fire Code Development Hearings, participated at the ASTM and UL Standards Development Processes, spreading the word and advocating for the FCIA's 'DIIM'™ Firestopping story.

Eventually, what started in the USA, expanded first to Canada, then the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and now worldwide. As a result, FCIA Membership has grown from a humble beginning of 8 in 1998 to a healthy 375+ companies in 2024.

Mr. Gleeson further mentioned that he and Mr. Bill McHugh, the first Executive Director of FCIA, "Want this effort to outlive all of our time here."

As FCIA celebrates its 25th Anniversary, we are thankful that it has, and will, outlive our time with this group. We're thankful for the FCIA Members who fund the work we do through membership in the Association, volunteer Board and Committee members, and staff that have made FCIA what it is today.

On behalf of the 8 leaders who were on the Steering Committee, thanks for making the FCIA's 'DIIM'™ story your story – and taking it forward. We know that FCIA will be guided over the next 25 years by great leadership and staff, and in the manner the next groups determine serves the 'DIIM'™ the best.

Congratulations! Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the FCIA and the 'DIIM' story.

Bill McHugh  
Technical Director



FCIA's 1st FIC Conference, January 1999, developing the 'DIIM'™ Story at UL's Chicago area HQ. FCIA Photo



# THERE'S ANOTHER BIRTHDAY IN THE HOUSE.. FM 4991 IS TURNING 25!

Just like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. so famously proclaimed, so too might have FCIA's first Accreditation Committee once upon a time, "We have a dream."

That dream was to build a way of quantifying Specialty Firestop Contractor qualifications to ensure proper installation of firestop systems. In the Spring of 1999, FCIA Accreditation Committee members Aedan Gleeson, Blase Reardon, and Don Murphy, supported by Bill McHugh, flew to Boston to work with Jeff Gould of FM Approvals to build the FM 4991, Standard for the Approval of Firestop Contractors. Work started at that meeting and culminated with publication of the FM 4991 Standard in November 2000.

Since then, the FM 4991 Approved Program has gone from zero FM 4991 Approved Firestop Contractors to 100++ worldwide. FCIA's Accreditation Committee and Board of Directors continue to meet with FM leadership frequently to review the program and collaborate on ways to work together to Specifications for third-party accredited SFCs grow.

We are thankful to have Scott MacGovern, Victoria Westgate, and Joanna Blaney working with us after Joe Nunes retired. We wish him the best in retirement.

# UL QUALIFIED FIRESTOP CONTRACTOR PROGRAM TURNS 18

Not long after, FCIA's Accreditation Committee next flew to Chicago to collaborate with UL to build the UL Qualified Firestop Contractor Program, now the UL Solutions QFCP.

FCIA worked with UL leaders to develop the Contractor accreditation program from 2003 until the first UL Firestop Exams were administered at FCIA's 2006 Education and Committee Action Conference in Montreal, QC. The UL-ULC QFCP was officially launched in 2007.

Again, the program went from zero contractors in 2007 to 135++ worldwide today.

FCIA's Accreditation Committee & Board of Directors meets with UL Solutions frequently to keep communication flowing and partnership for better fire and life safety in buildings.



MARK ST. ONGE  
UL SOLUTIONS

ALAN MCDURMON  
2024 FCIA PRESIDENT



**BUT WAIT: THERE'S MORE**

UL also introduced the MACC – Master Certificate of Compliance – a program aimed at providing Building Owners proof that they have had the installed firestop systems visually inspected each year. This annual visual inspection is required by the International Fire Code and has been since the 2006 edition was published.

Thanks to Ruben Sandoval & Mark St. Onge with UL Solutions for the work they do on the MACC and UL QFCP and advocating for the industry. (Seriously, Mark does such a good job at it, he even won an award this year! Go Mark!)

Haven't used the MACC yet? Consider it on the next project to bring your company back into the existing building for decades to come.

## REGISTER TODAY!!!

Have you registered?! What're you waiting for! The last webinar for the 2024 year is THIS DECEMBER 18th!

"Comparing and Contrasting Reaction to Fire Standards and Fire-Resistance Standards" Listen as Rich Walke and Bill McHugh explore and analyze the intent of the ASTM E119/UL263/ULC-S101 Fire-Resistance Standards versus the ASTM E84/UL 723/ULC-S102 Reaction-to-Fire Standards.

Join us for this informative webinar to learn the differences between Fire-Resistance and Reaction to Fire, and why both are important to the fire safety of a modern building.



## FCIA REPRESENTS AT ASTM E06

FCIA's Bill McHugh travelled to Orlando with manufacturer, testing lab, and consultant colleagues to work on ASTM E2174 & ASTM E2393, Firestop Inspection Standards. E06 discussions also include firestop product properties, such as exposure to environmental elements, movement of penetrating items, fireproofing inspection standards, and a lot more.

Samantha Peterson (3M) is Chair of the E06.21 Subcommittee. We're honored to participate in the important work this Subcommittee is tackling.



## FCIA & NFCA PARTNER FOR PASFIPO CALGARY

FCIA partnered with the National Fireproofing Contractors Association (NFCA) for PasFiPro '24 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

With over 140 in attendance, this joint Symposium brought two fire-resistance industries together to promote better fire and life safety in Canada through education on accurate Codes, Standards, installation, inspection, and maintenance of fireproofing and firestopping. The event welcomed great speakers from the National Research Council of Canada, Codes Canada, Specified Technologies Inc., Hilti, IPEX, Falconer Engineering, Learning Edge Resources, and more.

Attendees heard sessions covering a variety of topics, from business development to ULC-S101 (Structural Fire-Resistance) and ULC-S115 (Firestopping, including penetrations, joints and perimeter fire containment), sound transmission to firestopping combustible pipes, and a host of other topics relating to the structural and effective compartmentation PFP industries.

The event was also happy to bring back the trade show and networking opportunities!

We're looking forward to PasFiPro '25!!



Tim Mattox

Linda Edgecombe

# FCIA HEADS TO ICC

The International Code Council's Expo & Committee Action Hearing #2 for development of the 2027 International Building and Fire Code Development Process took place in Long Beach, CA this October.

At the event, FCIA was able to present on fire-resistance and firestopping with Bill McHugh and Rich Walke (CTI, Consultant to FCIA & NFCA) presiding. We were also able to talk one-on-one with friends old and new at the FCIA-NFCA shared booth at the ICC Expo.

During the Code Development Hearings, FCIA's Code team also had several proposals heard by the Fire Code Committee and Fire Safety Committee. Among those heard were:



Consultant to FCIA/NFCA & Bill McHugh speak & testify on code proposals at ICC '24

- FS47-24, which kept firestopping in parking garages where cars are located adjacent to the penetration.
- FS55-24, which brought perimeter fire containment back to the roofline to protect firefighters who are working on rooftops.

Unfortunately, FS42-24, the proposal to add identification devices (labels) where penetrations and joints occur, did not make it through this hearing and will be disapproved. Objections were that the new ASTM Standard is not ready yet.

With proposal FS53-24, the Southern Nevada Chapter of ICC submitted a proposal to remove the requirement to firestop the bottom of fire-resistance-rated wall assemblies unless the wall abuts two or more interconnected levels. This would remove most bottom-of-wall applications. FCIA, the International Firestop Council (IFC), and Hilti all argued in opposition at this Committee Action Hearing. It is important to note that the change would not take effect until it passes another round of debate for the 2027 IBC.



ICC's Code Development Hearings. FCIA Photo

FCIA stated that, "Continuity is the holy grail of fire-resistance. This proposal violates continuity concepts."

Hilti's Ed Goldhammer stated that, "Post flashover fires will have pressure at both the top and bottom of assemblies", with Tony Crimi, IFC's Code Consultant also testifying in opposition.

There is work going on now to develop public comments due March 2025 to overturn this action. Look for more after the final action hearing in April 2026. For now, consider letting local Code Officials know that this will cause a life safety risk in buildings if it is successful.

This just a small snippet, but there's a lot more that goes on at the Code hearings before a new edition of the IBC is passed. Once the process finishes, we'll update with much more info on specific Code proposals that passed through the complete process.

## What's coming in 2025?

If you guessed Webinars, THAT IS RIGHT! Thank YOU, our members for investing your time in our Monthly Webinars. We absolutely love hosting them and look forward to seeing our members (at least virtually) every month.

Now that you're here... sign up for the [January webinar](#) today! Don't worry.. we will remind you!

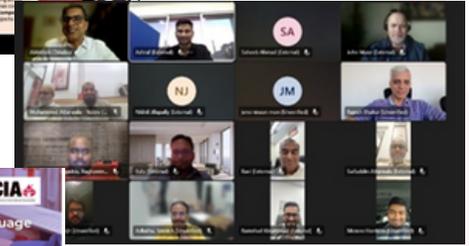


# FCIA IS AT IT AGAIN... GROWING INTERNATIONALLY!

FCIA's new Director, International Initiatives Abhishek Chhabra has been spreading the FCIA's 'DIIM' story worldwide.

Whether it's speaking at the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH) Annual Conference in London, UK, conducting special webinar sessions on "D'esigning Maintainable Compartmentation" and the 'Golden Thread of Passive Fire Protection' (plus more), facilitating FCIA Gulf region virtual Member updates, speaking with UL Solutions representatives at International Fire Operations Conference & Expo, presenting custom program for the Consortium of Accredited Healthcare Organizations (CAHO) in India or The Hospitality Engineers Middle East (THEME), having discussions with Dubai and Abu Dhabi Civil Defence and Saudi Arabian contacts, participation at Middle East fire events, and much more, there isn't much Abhi isn't doing to spread the good 'DIIM' word!

Nice to see that the I in FCIA (International) is coming alive!



## NEW MEMBER TO THE FCIA TEAM

We are excited to announce a new staff member to the FCIA staff... Carol Ann Barshop. She has been hired on as an Association Coordinator and will be working on a variety of things such as webinar/conference certificates, Enews (soon), membership support, and so much more. We asked Carol Ann to give us a brief introduction for our members –

'My name is Carol Ann Barshop! I am originally from the Chicago suburbs, now living in Omaha, NE. I love to foster pets! I recently fostered a mom and her 5 newborn kittens. I was such a sucker for the sweet mom that I foster failed and adopted her myself. I am so excited to learn even more about the FCIA and work with all of you!'

## THEY SAY ALL GOOD THINGS MUST EVENTUALLY COME TO AN END...

We would like to take a moment to thank Cathy Burns on her nine years of dedicated service to the Association. Her Contributions to growing membership, bringing in LSD ad sales to ensure the publication is profitable, development and support for the FEP, Committee work, and so much more will never go unnoticed. To say that she will be missed is an understatement. She has not only supported the Association, but she also supported the FCIA staff emotionally, physically, and developmentally. Her words of wisdom, her teachings, and her simple conversations that always made our workday better will be incredibly missed. Thank you, Cathy for the training, the talks, the laughter, and all the in between. The Members and Staff know that your shoes are too big to be filled, but our hope is that we can make you proud with what is to come.

- With lots of love, Lindsey, Lisette, Carol Ann and Bill.



# INTERSEC: THE WORLD PREMIER EVENT MAPPING THE FUTURE IN SECURITY, SAFETY & FIRE PROTECTION

Intersec 2025 is held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Mansoor Bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Intersec will mark its 26th edition from 14 - 16 January 2025 at Dubai World Trade Centre following a huge international response from both visitors and exhibitors attending its Silver Jubilee event in 2024 which hosted 47,506 trade buyers from 141 countries including key government leaders, agencies and organisational heads across industries.

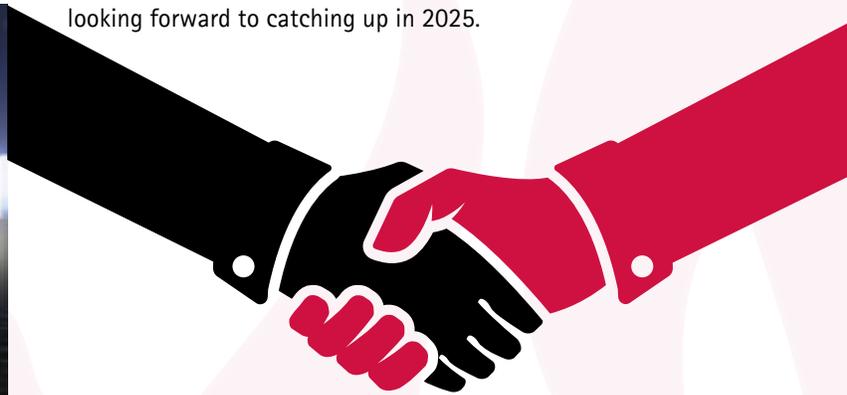
The dynamics of the market are constantly evolving with new technologies such as blockchain, AI and IOT having a significant impact across the safety and security industry. So Intersec is the event where experts, suppliers and buyers in the world of security, safety and fire protection meet face to face to discuss leading-edge technology, see the very latest products and solutions across a wide range of industries and business sectors, and conduct business.

We would love to have you back for the 26th edition. Your presence brought so much to the event, and we are already looking forward to catching up in 2025.



Date: 14 - 16 January 2025

Venue: Dubai World Trade Centre



## MEMBER RENEWALS

FCIA Renewal Invoices are hitting your inbox already! Want to keep being part of the magic?

Renew your membership in FCIA and get involved!

Be part of our story.

Invite a new member to join and get a special shoutout on the next newsletter!

Just have them mention your name on the application.

For more information on member renewals email Lissette @ Lissettek@cmservices.com



# NEW FCIA MEMBERS: 2024 ROUNDUP



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 and spread the word for better fire and life safety.

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

With no further ado, put your hands together for FCIA's 2024 NEW members!

## NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- Tanner Bolt
- Stantec
- VeriCon Passive Fire Protection Services
- Alliance Engineering Group, Inc.
- Beam Fire and Life Safety LLC
- MVL FIRESTOP BUILDING MATERIALS TRADING LLC
- Okie Safety Consulting
- Terracon Consultants
- PONO Consulting Group LLC

## NEW INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTOR MEMBERS

- Primestar International Fire Stopping Inc.
- Nuvac Electromechanical LLC
- Noble Protective System
- Scalar Construction and General Contracting

## NEW CONTRACTOR MEMBERS

- 1604 Specialties LLC
- Nor-West Firestop
- SAM Construction GP LLC
- A&M Construction Co.
- CR Insulation Inc.
- J&J Enterprises
- SUMMIT Sealants Inc., dba SUMMIT Sealants and Restoration Services, Inc.
- Forsythe Caulking
- GreenTech Sealants
- MEG GLASS INC.
- Construction Des Rivages
- Ecostar Insulation
- FSR Contracting Inc.
- M&M Consulting
- Viking Construction Services
- Accredited Firestop Installers, LLC
- Nordic Clean Air Ltd.
- Continental Insulation
- DwellSafe Inc.
- Interior Building Contractors LLC
- Starlite Building Services
- PCI - FLORIDA (BRANCH)

## NEW MANUFACTURER BRANCH MEMBERS

- Rectorseal
- HoldRite- A Brand of Reliance Worldwide Corporation
- SIKA UAE LLC

## NEW FRIEND OF FCIA MEMBERS

- RPM building & Code, INC
- Mid-West Planning District

## **FCIA MEMBERS: DO YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE BRANCH LOCATION?**

Make it easier to be found globally with a 'Branch Membership and Listing' at [www.FCIA.org](http://www.FCIA.org).

## **DO YOU KNOW A COMPANY THAT SHOULD BE AN FCIA MEMBER?**

Send them our way, and we'll follow up (and get you in the running for the Industry Development Award)!

Email [Lissettek@cmservices.com](mailto:Lissettek@cmservices.com) for more info.

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