

THE FIRESTOP

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FCIA IS EXPANDING!

FCIA's work in the Middle East, India, and beyond has resulted in an active membership in the regions. FCIA appreciates our international membership and their support. We're also ready to expand FCIA's global influence.

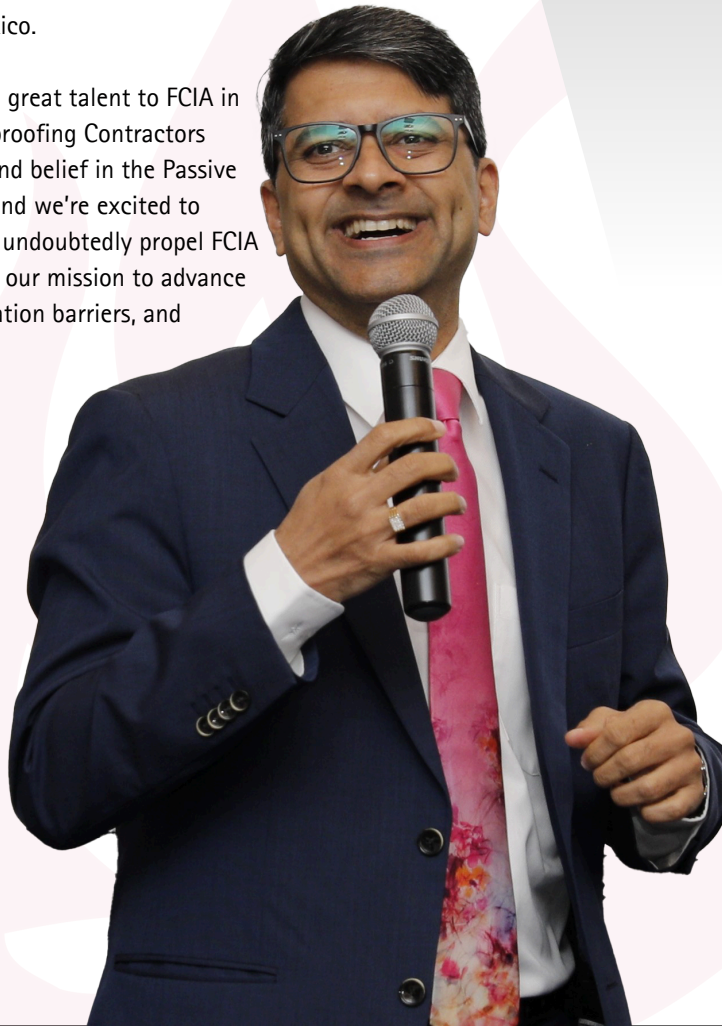
FCIA International Committee Chair, Ben Urcavich, is proud to announce that Abhishek Chhabra has joined the FCIA Team as Director, Middle East and Asia!

With nearly two decades of experience in the assurance industry, including over a decade in the Passive Fire Protection sector, Abhishek brings invaluable expertise to the FCIA. Abhishek has been part of several initiatives across Gulf Countries, Indian Sub-continent, and Asia countries to drive better standards, codes, and assurance across the fire safety community.

Abhi's expertise and passion for passive fire protection, testing, inspection and certification is a great addition to FCIA's work worldwide. His dedication to overcoming obstacles and fostering collaboration has been evident throughout his career and the many years FCIA has known and worked with him.

Plus, it will result in Bill McHugh being able to continue work in North America, the US, Canada, and Mexico.

We are honored to have attracted such a great talent to FCIA in this joint venture with the National Fireproofing Contractors Association (NFCA). Abhishek's passion and belief in the Passive Fire Protection industry is unparalleled, and we're excited to welcome him aboard! His leadership will undoubtedly propel FCIA and its members forward as we continue our mission to advance firestop systems, effective compartmentation barriers, and structural fire protection worldwide.



BIG THANKS

Join us in extending a HUGE thanks to Specified Technologies Inc. for their sponsorship of the PasiPro'24 Dubai, Doha, and Canada events! It's support like this that helps FCIA continue to produce the most thought-provoking events in the global Passive Fire Protection Industry.

We couldn't do it without your support!

TO PASIPRO'24 SPONSOR

Innovative
products
for life safety
and code
compliance.



Specified
Technologies Inc.

stifirestop.com

FCIA Resident Expert Participates in the UL Standards Technical Panel

FCIA's outside consultant Rich Walke spent 43 years at UL Solutions in fire testing, regulatory affairs, architectural services, and more. He was on the team to invent the firestop air leakage "L" Rating. His expertise in the UL 1479 and UL 2079 Standards has provided improvements in the Guide Information, as well as the Standards.

Even though Rich is now retired from UL Solutions, he still participates and represents FCIA on the UL Standards Technical Panel. FCIA is thankful to have such a resource on our team.

FCIA ASTM ACTIVITY

FCIA participates in ASTM E06.21 Committee Meetings. FCIA Board Member and Standards Committee Chair, Jay McGuire, worked with negative voters at ASTM on the DRAFT Firestop Identification System (labeling) Standard to get the document closer to publication. It's getting close to completion on this document!

Nice work Jay & FCIA Standards Committee!

FCIA Board Of Directors Meets with Fireproofing Industry Leaders



This April, the FCIA Board of Directors invited the National Fireproofing Contractors Association (NFCA) President, Mathew Stephenson, and Past President, Carl Fernald, to Oklahoma City to discuss common fire-resistance issues and goals seen by both industries. Common goals for fire and life safety through fire-resistance-rated assemblies in new and existing buildings means a great future collaboration.

During the meeting, FCIA and NFCA leadership agreed to continue promoting fire-resistance concepts at trade shows and joint symposiums in the Middle East and Canada and set the table for future conversations about collaboration for shared goals.

Firestop Industry Action Continues at ECA'24!

FCIA's Education and Committee Action Conference – ECA '24 – celebrated its 25th program a few weeks ago, and it really is humbling to see how the event – and Association – has grown over time.

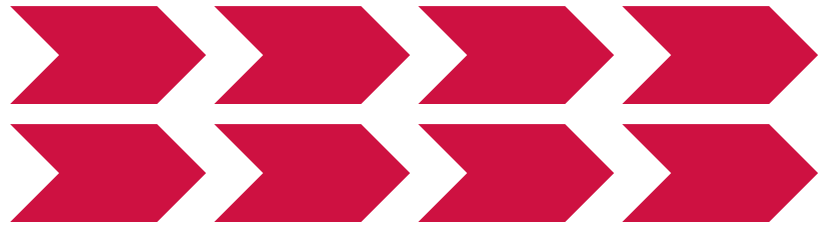
The first FCIA Education & Committee Action Conference in 1999 had a total of 35 attendees with a few volunteers on each Committee. Over the years and with the vision and direction of FCIA Boards throughout the years, the evolution of ECA has seen a dramatic growth in member Committee participation.



FCIA ECA 1999

This year's program focused on its name, "Committee Action". The program had 6 separate Committee Action Sessions with more than 25 volunteers at each meeting! The sessions covered actions for Firestop Inspection, the International Building & Fire Codes, Membership and Marketing, Education, and much more. Discussions were lively, bringing ideas on how to advance fire and life safety through firestopping, codes and standards, inspection, accreditation programs. Ideas were developed. Initiatives were begun.

It's very exciting to see the next generation start to take ownership of the industry and get involved the way FCIA's founders originally envisioned!



FCIA ECA 2024

UL Master Certificate Of Compliance

Is your company a UL Qualified Firestop Contractor (UL QFC)? If so, it's time you check out the MACC program!

Why? It provides an on-site audit of your company management system, with a certificate of compliance delivered to the UL Qualified Contractor, who then provides it to the Building Owner. This reinforces that your work was not only necessary, but also compliant. An annual visual inspection by the UL Solutions Qualified Firestop Contractor with the UL Solutions Auditor is required to renew the certificate.

Help your client have a record of compliance with section 701.6 of the International Fire Code & 12.3.3.1 of NFPA 1, that mandate records of inspections, repairs or replacement be kept. Separate your company from the rest – as only a UL QFCP contractor can deliver these certs.

Visit [UL's MACC Info pages](#) for more info.

(MACC)

STRATEGIC STAFF MOVES POSITION FCIA FOR LONGEVITY

Planning for the future, FCIA's Board of Directors has made some strategic moves to build continuity and add depth to the FCIA staff team. And, at this year's ECA '24 Conference, FCIA Board President, Alan McDurmon announced these moves.

Lisette Keslinke has joined FCIA as an Association Coordinator. She's learning the ropes, soaking up all the knowledge she can, and bringing her bubbly personality to the FCIA membership on the daily.

And, let's not forget Cathy Burns, our resident Membership and FCIA Education Program expert! You know, you love her, and we can't do it without her! From membership, to Life Safety Digest, and all the in betweens, she is an incredible asset to the team and always has been! She helps us adjust to all the changes and has been an incredible help to Lisette in her training these last couple of months.

Abhishek Chhabra has been named as Director, Middle East and Asia, which provides opportunities for FCIA in the regions. (see article above)

Bill McHugh has been named Technical Director of FCIA. This role allows Bill to focus on the technical responsibilities and inquiries of the Association, including national and international speaking engagements, Codes and Standards development, etc. In this position, Bill will continue to support the industry and be able extend his career.

Lindsey Dutkiewicz has been named Executive Director, leading the business and operations of the Association, working closely with Bill on all advocacy initiatives, and reporting directly to the Board of Directors. She has been working with FCIA for 10 years and is very passionate about the FCIA Mission and Passive Fire Protection industry.

This is just the first of many big steps FCIA is taking towards the future. Watch for more strategic moves to promote fire and life safety through passive fire protection and firestopping in the near future.



FCIA CELEBRATES!

Mark your calendars for FCIA's 25th Anniversary Celebration this November 5-8 in Palm Springs, CA!

It is hard to believe that from 8 original members, FCIA is now nearing 400 members...and is still growing strong! Make plans to attend and celebrate 25 years of growth with us!





FCIA PARTICIPATES AT THE ICC COMMITTEE ACTION HEARINGS

This April 7-17, FCIA's Code Team, comprised of Consultants – Bill Koffel (Koffel Associates), Rich Walke (CTI) – and FCIA Technical Director, Bill McHugh, actively participated in ICC's 2024/2025/2026 Cycle A Committee Action Hearing 1 (CAH 1). Held over 10 days in Orlando, FL, FCIA had several proposals heard, including some success, made new friends, and worked with our great team.

At ICC's Code Development Process (CDP), there was a big change in the process.

This year, two Committee Action Hearings will take place versus one CAH held in years' past. Further, when a proposal is disapproved at the Committee Action Session, the Committee will give a reason(s) for the action, and then it's on to the assembly of Code Officials for final action, rather than the Committee that gave direction to the proponent.

In the new CDP, the same Committee that approved or disapproved proposals will hear comments to the decisions the Committee made.

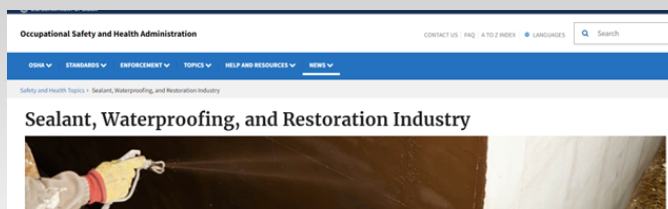
April's CAH 1 is complete, with public comments due in early July. CAH 2 takes place Oct. 23-31 in Long Beach, CA USA. Cycle B starts early in January '25, with April and October hearings for Cycle B. The Public Comment Hearing takes place in April 2026. Likely publication of the 2027 family of International Codes will be around Q1 or Q2 of 2025.

Missed the action and want to check out the hearing videos? Visit www.CDPAccess.com, log in, and click on 'view the videos' to see testimony.

We're thankful to have attracted and kept talent like Bill Koffel and Rich Walke to FCIA – and look forward to continued success together.

SAFETY SECTION

Did you know there is a special OSHA.gov section on Sealant, Waterproofing and Restoration Industry safety? Firestopping's objective is to provide fire-resistance continuity where a breach is made for a penetrating item such as pipe(s), cable(s), joints and voids. Although fire-resistance is the industry, products used might be sealants and be considered in this category from a safety perspective.



What's New?

As municipalities develop their methods to qualify Firestop Inspection Agencies and Inspectors, they are reviewing many different items, including Firestop Containment Workers. Watch for a report on these developments later this year from FCIA.

THE FIRESTOP MANUAL OF PRACTICE

25 years ago, a group of FCIA member volunteers identified a knowledge gap in the construction industry. It seemed the world did not understand passive fire protection and the need for having it properly 'D'esigned, 'I'nstalled by experts, 'I'nspected by qualified inspectors, and 'M'aintained for the building's life cycle.

Thus, the FCIA Firestop Manual of Practice was born. The 1ST Edition of the FCIA Firestop Manual of Practice (MOP) was published in September 2000.

Fast forward to today. Updates have happened every 3-5 years (roughly), and the FCIA MOP is now on the 8th Edition and is the definitive industry resource, found on shelves all around the world.

Some of the revisions include an 80-page section on Firestop Inspection and over 150 pages on Standards and Codes from around the world. And, Chapter 3's products and systems content provides the deepest dive into firestop details of any resource.

As the industry evolves and grows, so does the FCIA MOP. Keep your MOP up to date. FCIA members who have purchased an MOP can get PDF updates are free. The print version of the update without binder is \$95USD.

Not a FCIA Member? Join FCIA to get all the benefits...and invest in the industry development FCIA has done the past 25 years.



FCIA FIRESTOP EDUCATION PROGRAM

This FCIA online Firestop Industry Education program is the most in-depth technical program there is on the market for firestopping. Think FCIA's MOP Chapter 3 come to life in a narrated format.

Need education for a new employee? FCIA's FEP Firestop Level 1 provides a detailed overview of the 'DIIM' of firestopping to show our industry.

Want to get deep and technical? FCIA's FEP Firestop Level 2 gets it done.

Estimating and Project Management? Firestop Level 3 provides issues to think about on both topics.

FCIA Members asked the Education Committee to develop a way for Supervisors to track individual progress, and thus, the Admin Module was born. FCIA's Admin access lets you track employees as they progress through the program. to assemble the module.

For \$1,000 USD, FCIA Members can have unlimited users educated for 1 year. See why this program is the best and check out [why your company should buy](#) this key program.



The FCIA Education Program (FEP) is built on decades of experience in firestopping, drawing on FCIA's education and technical resources.



Industry Inspiration

Verified Knowledge

Member Discounts

Member Support

ACCREDITATION FOR SPECIALTY FIRESTOP INSTALLATION CONTRACTORS

Specifications state that the Specialty Firestop Installation Contractor needs to be FM 4991 Approved or UL Qualified. Is it time for your firm to get accredited? Let's explore the steps for getting that done.

Step 1: Acquire the current version of FCIA's Firestop Manual of Practice.

Step 2: Write and implement a company Quality Management System and Manual.

Step 3: Have someone at the firestop contractor company take and pass the FM or UL Firestop Exam.

Step 4: Complete the application/request for quote process with FM Approvals or UL Solutions.

Step 5: Contact FM Approvals and or UL Solutions to schedule an on-site audit* and review of the management system. Complete the on-site audit and review.

Step 6: Pay your invoice!

Step 7: Designate a Designated Responsible Individual (DRI).

Step 8: Congrats! Your company is now FM 4991 APPROVED or UL QUALIFIED and is now listed at www.fcia.org and FM's Approval Guide and/or UL's Product iQ websites.

Learn more at <https://www.fcia.org/GET-ACCREDITED>.

* Note: The on-site audit is an audit of the company Quality Management System and Manual to verify that the processes documented in the QMS are what is happening in the field. This audit is generally comprised of a review of the materials at the company's office followed by one (or more) jobsite reviews.

LEARN MORE



FCIA'S REPORT ON ICC PROPOSALS

FCIA proposed several items for the International Building Code and International Fire Code Chapter 7. The proposals are not part of the Codes yet and are still subject to public comment. If successful at CAH 2, Public Comment Hearings, OGCV, and the ICC Standards Council and Board of Directors approval, they will become part of the 2027 version of the International Building Code (IBC) or International Fire Code (IFC).

FCIA's Code Team and Code Committee worked at the IFC (F) Committee and the IBC Fire Safety Committee providing proposals to bring better fire and life safety to buildings through fire-resistance and firestopping.

In FCIA proposal S6-24, heard by the Fire Safety Committee, FCIA's outside consultant Bill Koffel presented that firestop special inspectors need to have qualifications. This submission was approved as submitted.

[BF] 1705.18.3 Qualifications. Special inspectors who perform special inspections of penetration firestop systems and fire-resistant joint systems shall have expertise in listings and manufacturer's installation instructions, demonstrated by passing a firestop examination conducted by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory, trade-association, or an approved equivalent.

Another proposal by the International Firestop Council, M40-24, which attempted to add special inspection for fire-resistant duct wrap, was heard by the Mechanical Code Committee. This was disapproved.

FCIA's FS35-24 dealt with penetrations and skylights in occupiable roofs, clarifying that firestopping of penetrations and joints is required. Testimony that 'joints' would mean protecting gaps in paver toppings would be required caused intense Committee confusion. Fire-resistance occurs at the structural fire-resistance-rated horizontal assembly, not at the pedestrian traffic pavers that cover the roof. Although the proposal was disapproved, it was a close margin of 6-5. A public comment with more explanation will be submitted.

FCIA submitted FS40-24, which addresses that penetrations would need identification (labels) as described by a new ASTM Standard. In FS42-24, submitted by FCIA outside consultant Bill Koffel, a more generic short directive about labeling was proposed. This proposal was disproved. The main objections were that the DRAFT ASTM Standard for Firestop Identification Systems was not ready yet, and better rules are needed for these installations.

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FCIA'S REPORT ON ICC PROPOSALS

(CONTINUED...)

FCIA's FS43-24 proposal added that manufacturer's instructions and listings need to be at the jobsite, inspectable by the AHJ upon request. This proposal was unanimously approved as submitted, 11-0.

FCIA in FS44-24. While it has been disapproved as a code requirement, specifications continue to state that firestopping penetrations, joints, and voids shall be installed by FM 4991 Approved or UL Qualified Firestop Contractors in a large percentage of projects. The FM 4991 and UL QFCP programs did not exist 25 years ago, yet the fact that they are specified widely now is a tribute to FCIA's work to improve fire and life safety through 3rd-party audited firestop installation quality management system programs.

In FS55-24, FCIA submitted that fire-resistance be provided at the perimeter of a fire-resistance-rated roof assembly and exterior curtain wall. This was approved as modified.

In the International Wildland Urban Interface Code, WUIC49-24, a proposal would have required an ASTM E814 or UL 1479, UL 2079, or ASTM E1966 firestop to protect breaches between an eave vent and the eave structure. Since there is no fire-resistance-rating of the wood and no listings to refer to, the proponent agreed to change the language eliminating the firestop standards.

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Consultant to FCIA, Rich Walke, worked with the ICC Fire Code Action Committee on many proposals on behalf of FCIA, himself, or other clients.

Proposal FS51-24 clarified that when it comes to air leakage in smoke barriers, EITHER (not both) 5cfm/sf opening area OR 50cfm/100sf wall area is required and was approved as submitted. Proposal FS52-24 clarified that an air leakage rating was required for penetrations in both vertical and horizontal smoke barriers and was approved as submitted.

Rich Walke, representing SAFTIFIRST, proposed to the Means of Egress Committee E96-24. The proposal would have required a minimum 1-hour fire-resistance-rating for corridor walls in

sprinkled E-Educational Occupancies. While support came from various groups, including the National Association of State Fire Marshals, the proposal was disapproved. Cost seemed to be the biggest reason for disapproval.

In another proposal, Rich also was successful in removing a section on firestopping for a test procedure that is obsolete.

The International Firestop Council worked at the Fire Code Action Committee (FCAC) on many proposals. The Council had success with FS18-24, the addition of exterior wall firestopping where the wall is fire-resistance-rated, and openings are protected. The decision of the ICC Fire Safety Committee was 10-2 with a Code Official and Consultant objecting.

In FS29-24, the Council supported the FCAC proposal that added a Continuity Head of Wall System option at a fire-resistance-rated fire barrier that left a void between it and a non-fire-resistance-rated floor assembly intersection. This proposal was approved as submitted, 13-0.

For FS38-24, a proposal to reduce the fire-resistance-rating of shaft enclosures was submitted. Bill Koffel represented FireSafe North America and spoke against the proposal. It was stated that, "This is a sprinkler trade off". This proposal was disapproved.

In FS47-24, FCAC was able to convince the Committee to approve a proposal to require the protection of penetrations for all areas of parking structures, except where there is no parking allowed.

Another proposal submitted by the Southern Nevada Chapter of ICC (FS53-24) would have eliminated bottom of wall firestopping. This proposal was disapproved 12-0. Ed Goldhammer (Hilti) stated that "due to the physics of flashover fire, pressures are all over a wall, not just at the top of the wall". It seems the Committee listened to Mr. Goldhammer's knowledge as a Fire Protection Engineer.

All in all, this was a successful cycle for the industry.



FCIA Partners with NFPA

The NFPA Conference & Expo heads to Orlando this June. At the 2024 Conference & Expo:

- Learn about the latest cutting-edge developments in building, electrical, and life safety.
- Absorb best-in-class training with continuing education credits (CEUs).
- Take in world-class exhibitors, speakers, and hands-on demonstrations.
- Access knowledge about best practices, codes, and standards via on-site technical experts.
- Discover the latest technologies with fire and life safety products.
- Learn how to comply with NFPA codes for design, construction, and operation of buildings.



For more information about the current list of conference exhibitors and to sign up for a FREE ExpoAdvantage™ Pass, [click here](#).



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 newest members!

NEW CONTRACTOR MEMBERS

- A&M Construction Co. - Wakefield, MA
- CR Insulation, Inc. - Levis, QC
- J&J Enterprises - Fulton, MO
- Primestar International Fire Stopping Inc. - Toronto, ON
- SUMMIT Sealants Inc., dba SUMMIT Sealants and Restoration Services, Inc. - Montrose, CO

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- Alliance Engineering Group, Inc. - Taylor, TX
- Beam Fire and Life Safety LLC - Flower Mound, TX
- VeriCon Passive Fire Protection Services - Milford, NH

NEW MANUFACTURER BRANCH MEMBERS

- Rectorseal - Wichita, KS

NEW FRIEND OF FCIA MEMBERS

- RPM Building & Code, Inc. - Mundelein, IL

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.

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 cathy@FCIA.org and lissettek@cmservices.com for more info.

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