

THE FIRESTOP

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FCIA'S FIC '25 IN ORLANDO WAS A FORCE-POWERED VICTORY FROM START TO FINISH.

From thrilling workshops to a trade show packed with the latest firestop solutions, FCIA's Firestop Industry Conference & Trade Show – FIC '25 – proved to be a gathering worthy of the fire protection Jedi Order. Attendees came together to strengthen the (Fire-)Resistance, share wisdom, and explore innovations that lit up the galaxy.

The golf tournament was a major hit, giving everyone a chance to enjoy some friendly competition. FCIA's annual dinner, "FIC-toberfest" brought the entire crew together for an evening complete with a few spirited traditions (yes, even a boot or two), some well deserved awards, and even some memorable birthday shoutouts.

FIC '25 delivered a Force-powered experience from start to finish, leaving the fire protection universe stronger than ever.



Check out the FCIA Photo Album on our website www.FCIA.org under 'Resources'.

THE WAIT IS OVER - PFPCON '26 DETAILS ARE HERE

FCIA and NFCA (National Fireproofing Contractors Association) leadership have collaborated on an exciting new concept for both organizations: PFPCON. Passive Fire Protection combines structural fire-resistance and effective compartmentation—both critical to keeping people and property safe in buildings. PFPCON brings all aspects of fire-resistance together to make a real impact on fire and life safety.

PFPCON takes place March 30 – April 3, 2026, at ARIA, Las Vegas, combining NFCA's Week of Learning with FCIA's Education & Committee Action Conference. The event addresses common challenges across both industries while covering topics specific to each. Learn from top presenters, prepare for NFCA's Fireproofing Exams, and explore exhibits for both fireproofing and firestopping. Don't miss this unique opportunity to connect, learn, and advance fire and life safety. Register on our Events page at www.fcia.org.

THE ARIA RESORT
LAS VEGAS, NV

30 MARCH
3 APRIL



YOUR 2026 FCIA BOARD: OFFICIALLY ELECTED AT FIC



L-R: Ben Urcavich (Director),
Corey Beckett (Director),
Tyler Ferguson (Director),
Joe Wilkinson (President-Elect),
Gus Mancini (Past President),
Alan Mcdurmon (Past, Past President),
Darren Pollock, Sr. (Director),
Mark Dietz (Director),
Not pictured: Jerry Dugan, Jr (Director)

FCIA @ FIRE EXPO MEXICO

FCIA hosted an active trade show booth in Guadalajara, Mexico, where Lissette Keslinke (fluent in Spanish) and Lindsey Dutkiewicz connected with existing members and prospective new members. They also supported and highlighted Dr. Gabby Peck's presentation as part of the Fire Protection MasterClass. Delivered with both Spanish and English slides, Dr. Peck's program on fire resistance was well received by attendees.



Seeing the FCIA flag flying alongside other country association flags at the Friends Luncheon was absolutely priceless.



FCIA @ ICC

NFCA's new Technical Director, Dr. Gabby Peck, along with Rich Walke, CTI Inc. (Consultant to FCIA), and Bill McHugh, spent a week in Cleveland, OH, attending the International Code Council (ICC) Expo, Education Sessions, and Group B Codes Committee Action Hearing #2.

FCIA's joint booth with NFCA welcomed code officials and industry friends to discuss code proposals and strengthen relationships. While the firestopping side of the industry was quieter, the structural fire-resistance and fireproofing sectors were active, with proposals including a minimum 1-hour fire-resistance rating for occupiable roofs, raising parking garage fire-resistance ratings to 3 or 4 hours, and more.



Public comments are due January 5, 2026. Watch for a full report in early February on FCIA's plans for the 2026 ICC Public Comment Hearing (PCH), which will take place April 19-28, 2026, in Hartford, CT.

FCIA FIRESTOP EDUCATION PROGRAM (FEP)

The FCIA's FEP is the most thorough education on firestopping available anywhere. From DIIM to Firestop Material Properties, Estimating and Project Management, there is a ton of info in the programs.

Increase the depth of knowledge in company employees to protect against liability, be able to discuss industry issues intelligently with customers, and as a result, gain more business. Watch for more education modules to be released soon.



FCIA @ IFMA

FCIA had a great presence at this year's IFMA Annual Conference in Minneapolis! Attendees were engaged and excited about learning more on Passive Fire Protection, and our squishy flames were a big hit.

We're looking forward to building on these connections and sharing more about fire and life safety in the year ahead.



NEW ASTM QUALITY MANAGEMENT STANDARD

ASTM E329, Standard Specification for Agencies Engaged in Construction Inspection, Testing or Special Inspection is a best practice program for quality management that is used to evaluate companies involved in these disciplines. The standard is managed at ASTM Committee E36 on Accreditation and Certification. FCIA has had issues with the standard, as it required firestop special inspection agencies to have a licensed professional engineer on staff, supervising firestop inspectors. FCIA formally commented to the chair of the group, citing our issue, and possible solutions. More after they meet in December, and ballot again in January.

FCIA INSPECTION COMMITTEE MEETS

From humble beginnings with just three participants, FCIA has grown to draw 50 attendees at the FCIA ECA Conference. This expanding group is making a meaningful impact on inspection standards. FCIA Inspection Chairs Gus Mancini, Gleeson Powers, and Mark St. Onge, UL Solutions, brought the committee up to date on where ASTM E2174 and ASTM E2393 stand at this point in time. Issues discussed included harmonizing observation and destructive testing language in Section 10, adding sealant shrinkage appendix to E2393 as it is in E2174, inspector qualifications being narrowed down to ASTM E3038 in the future, and much more. Watch for ballot results after the Spring ASTM Meeting, late March 2026.

NEW LOOK & FUNCTIONALITY - UL SOLUTIONS' PRODUCT IQ - UL PRODUCT IQ®

(www.UL.com/PiQ) released a new look and additional features, but with access to the same great content Oct. 20, 2025. What's new? Check out the [two-minute demo](#) to learn more about:

- Prebuilt category searches – easy access to search preselected product and service categories.
- Keyword search and advanced, customizable filtering system – for expansive or specified search.
- View images in search results - saving time to research schematics and marks.
- For Product iQ paid members, create a custom list from personal search results, previously called tagging, ideal for organizing projects or creating a preliminary bill of materials.

Questions, help needed with UL Solutions' Product iQ? Visit www.ul.com/contact-us.

FCIA PFPCON 2026 DUBAI

FCIA's long-standing programs in the Middle East now include NFCA presenting another outstanding Passive Fire Protection program (PFPCON) at the major INTERSEC Show. FCIA's Director of International Initiatives, Abhishek Chhabra, Technical Director Gabby Peck, and Executive Director Lindsey Dutkiewicz will attend January 12-14 for this premier event.

Code officials from Civil Defence Departments, Fire Marshals, Departments of Municipality, architects, engineers, fireproofing contractors, and inspection agencies are invited to attend. For more information, contact Abhishek Chhabra.

PFPCON '26 DUBAI

12-14 JANUARY 2026

DUBAI WORLD TRADE CENTRE



intersec

12 - 14 January 2026
Dubai World Trade Centre

The world's premier event
for **Security, Safety and
Fire Protection.**

REGISTER TO VISIT

messe frankfurt

FCIA @ CC PUBLIC HEARING COMING

FCIA's Bill McHugh, Gabby Peck, and Consultant Rich Walke will travel to Hartford, CT for the public comment hearing. A major issue on the agenda is a proposal that would eliminate the need for most bottom-of-wall firestop systems, except in shaft wall conditions. FCIA's Code Committee has been working closely with Hilti's Ed Goldhammer, IFC Code Chair, to understand the critical role of bottom-of-wall firestopping. It's about much more than just fire-resistance continuity—it's a key fire and life safety measure.

Under fire flashover conditions, pressures on walls are distributed evenly—top, middle, and bottom. While walls may appear continuous on drawings, metal or wood stud tracks at the bottom are often interrupted for piping or other penetrations.

Kudos to the FCIA and IFC teams for collaborating to preserve this essential fire and life safety requirement in the 2027 IBC. Results from the hearing are expected in May or June 2026.

WELCOME NEW FCIA MEMBERS

FCIA is excited to welcome new members who share our commitment to advancing Passive Fire Protection.

NEW CONTRACTOR MEMBERS

BJB Restoration, Inc

Core Facility Solutions

Empire Insulation

Flamro Brandschutz-Systeme GMBH

Foam Expert Group

Turner Construction

TruTeam Builder Services Group Inc. DBA
Fireblockers

NEW INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTOR MEMBER

Arco Electromechanical LLC

NEW MANUFACTURER BRANCH MEMBER

Hunan Bessive New Materials Co., Ltd

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Model Solutions Engineering Consultancy

SprintLab

Want to see your company's name on this list? Contact Lissette at lissettek@cmservices.com for information about FCIA Membership

FCIA'S DIIM

This acronym may seem simple at first glance, but in reality, it represents years of careful planning, collaboration, and hard work by FCIA Boards, Committee Leaders, and Members. Over time, they have pieced together a framework that has shaped the firestopping and passive fire protection industry into what it is today. It's not just a collection of letters—it reflects a vision, a strategy, and a commitment to raising standards across the industry.

This dedication is one of the main reasons many professionals have chosen to join FCIA: because it is an organization that truly drives the industry forward, rather than simply being a social club or networking group.



What follows below is a detailed explanation of the significant industry developments that have taken place under the overall guidance of “DIIM”. Step by step, you’ll see how each element of this framework has contributed to safer buildings, higher quality installations, and an evolving culture of fire protection excellence.

FCIA'S DIIM CONTINUED

D - DESIGN

Master specifications now have FM 4991, Standard for the Approval of Firestop Contractors (FM 4991) or UL Qualified Firestop Contractors Program (UL QFCP) required, along with Firestop Inspection in accordance with ASTM E2174, ASTM E2393. Why? FCIA's Accreditation Committee and staff conducted outreach to master specification agencies, presenting the importance and value of specifying FCIA programs. It was their choice to add FM 4991 and UL QFCP in 2002 to 07 84 00 Firestopping Specifications.

I - INSTALLATION

FCIA's Accreditation Committee built FM 4991 and the UL QFCP – volunteer leaders flew to Boston and Chicago on their own dime, to help them become reality. Specifications are holding much more than ever from what members reported to FCIA.

I - INSPECTION

As part of FCIA's focus on quality installations, properly conducted inspections ensure building owners receive the full value of installed firestopping. Because most people think firestopping is a 'product sport', not 'systems', inspection is key to success. Done right, it results in firestopping installed in accordance with listings, manufacturers instructions for fire and life safety. A side benefit is the realization that the specialist firestop contractor – who looked expensive – is now a more correct value than those that toss goop at the wall. Our fear however, is that uneducated inspection agencies let bad installations pass – a life safety risk. FCIA's Standards Committee, staff, built the standards, in record time – working with manufacturers at ASTM. FCIA's Code Committee, staff, Consultant Bill Koffel, proposed it at ICC three times, with the 4th time being the successful addition to the 2012 IBC.

M-MAINTAINING PROTECTION

The International Fire Code, NFPA 1, NFPA 101, National Fire Code of Canada, UAE Fire and Life Safety Code of Practice, National Building Code of India, all have language that directs the building owner and manager to maintain fire-resistance, including firestopping – for the building life cycle. This one is harder to see, as most of the industry is focused on new construction. However, existing buildings need protection too – and someone has to do it. FCIA members are best qualified for maintaining firestopping, and other Fire and Smoke Protection Features as well.

So, just four letters – DIIM – but a big deal as a strategy to change the industry. If firestopping, effective compartmentation, and structural fire resistance is not DIIM'd to produce a safe building – why bother with this discipline? That's the 'why' behind the DIIM – and why it makes sense as much today as it did in 1998.

PROMOTE YOUR COMPANY IN LIFE SAFETY DIGEST

Life Safety Digest, the official publication of the Firestop Contractors International Association (FCIA), is the industry's go-to resource for firestopping, effective compartmentation, and fire-resistance information. Distributed to a targeted audience of contractors, code officials, architects, engineers, inspectors, facility managers, and other key stakeholders, this quarterly magazine puts your brand in front of the people driving specifications, purchases, and approvals in the built environment.

DOWNLOAD
THE
2025
PRINT
+
DIGITAL
PLANNING
GUIDE



Why advertise?

- ◆ Niche, qualified audience – Our readers are actively engaged in life safety and fire-resistance-rated construction.
- ◆ Trusted industry voice – FCIA is recognized globally as a leader in firestop education, code development, and industry expertise.
- ◆ Multi-platform exposure – Your ad appears in both print and digital editions, with bonus exposure at major industry events.
- ◆ Content-rich environment – Your brand is placed alongside technical features, case studies, code updates, and expert commentary.

Advertising in Life Safety Digest isn't just visibility – it's credibility.

✉ Interested in advertising or reserving space in an upcoming issue?

Contact Lissette at Lissettek@cmservices.com or visit www.fcia.org for rates, deadlines, and specs.

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 for more info.



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GOLD LEVEL SPONSOR



SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS



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