

THE FIRESTOP

IN THIS ISSUE

Page

FCIA ECA CONFERENCE	2
BIG THANKS TO FM APPROVALS AND UL SOLUTIONS	
FCIA INDUSTRY ACTION CONTINUES AT ECA'25	3
FCIA INDUSTRY ACTION CONTINUES AT ECA'25 (CONTINUED)	4
ICC HOLDS 2027 GROUP B, CAH 1 HEARING	5
FIRESTOP SPECIAL INSPECTION	
FCIA FM & UL FIRESTOP CONTRACTOR PROGRAMS	
CONTRACTOR PROGRAMS AND BRANCH OFFICES	6
ASTM MEETINGS	
UL TEDP	
FCIA INTERNATIONAL HEARINGS	7
INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE & UL MACC	
CLEARSTORY SHEDS LIGHT ON COSTLY CHANGE ORDER CHALLENGES	
FCIA PARTNERS	8
EXCITING FCIA EVENTS	
PROMOTE YOUR COMPANY IN LIFE SAFETY DIGEST	9
NEW MEMBER WELCOME	
SPONSORS	10



**LOOKING FOR AN
ENGINEERING JUDGMENT?**

Meet our Thermafiber Insolutions® team

Visit [owenscorning.com/thermafiber](https://www.owenscorning.com/thermafiber)

© 2025 Owens Corning. All Rights Reserved.

FCIA ECA CONFERENCE

FCIA's Education and Committee Action Conference had amazing speakers, but even better – action packed committee action sessions.

Session highlights included The Free Agent Economist Richard Branch – with a great perspective on the construction economy for 2025 and beyond in both USA and Canada – with a conservatively optimistic view based on the basics of economy.

The first "Women in Firestopping" program was presented with great reception, hosted by Lindsey Dutkiewicz (FCIA Executive Director), with Samantha Peterson (3M Fire Protection Products), Angie Ogino (Owens Corning/Thermafiber), and Mellison Foster-Bangs (candidate for NAWIC Board of Directors) bringing perspectives on this topic.

Philip Siegel (Hendrick Philips, Salzman and Siegel) brought great legal perspectives on safety. OSHA's Monica Camacho joined us to present US Department of Labor statistics on construction injuries – with a big emphasis on fall protection. Thanks to Corey Beckett (Beyond Thermal), Lori Nelson (Bartkowski), and Zack Seipert (Central UT Water District) for unravelling how Artificial Intelligence and Social Media can make a difference in a career, a business, fire and life safety in buildings. Cyber security was presented by Cathy Wendt. Aaron Alterman (Specified Technologies, Inc.) presented on Perimeter Fire Containment, while Hilti's Nate Crawford presented on Aluminum Penetrating Items and how firestop systems can differ from what we think about a 'metallic penetrating item'. Not all penetrating items burn the same!!



BIG THANKS

Big thanks also to FM Approvals' Scott MacGovern and UL Solutions' Mark St. Onge, plus Rich Walke, for presenting at the conference and at FCIA's prep for FM & UL Firestop Exams. Your insights are valuable.

FM Approvals



FIRESTOP INDUSTRY ACTION CONTINUES AT ECA'25!

Returning to processes used in early 2000's, FCIA's Committees met in San Antonio. In total, 6 committees met to discuss issues, charting paths forward in engaging Committee Action Sessions.

At FCIA's Inspection Committee, Special Inspection Agencies, Manufacturers, and Contractors met, looked at past discussions, and focused forward. Gus Mancini (Gleeson Powers) and Mark St. Onge (UL Solutions), Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, introduced that a big goal of theirs is to engage the committee. Questions were asked...How do we make sure there is accountability for fire and life safety with inspection and installation? How do we educate about special inspection? How do we report issues to jurisdictions? What's the process for vetting inspection agencies by jurisdictions? Acceptance? How can we improve inspection?

We had great participation, with comments from Wayne Barrow (VeriCon), Brent Johnson (FireWise), and Alex Nelson (Braun).

FCIA's Standards Committee & Code Committee met together. Headed by Chairs Jay McGuire (Fire Stop Technologies) and Gus Mancini (Gleeson Powers), this discussion covered the Standards and Code development processes at ASTM, International Code Council, NFPA, National Building Code of Canada, and much more.

FCIA's involvement in fire standards and various physical property standards development, in addition to ASTM E2174 and ASTM E2393 Firestop Inspection Standards, has been to bring the construction project field perspective to the process.

At ICC, we covered proposals that deal with fire and life safety in buildings. Some reduce that safety in our opinion, including a proposal that will remove firestopping from the bottom of wall in the 2027 IBC if it is successful at a hearing at 2026.

One highlight from the Standards, Inspection, and Code Committees was a suggestion by Alex Nelson for a proposed ASTM E 2174 and ASTM E2393 ballot:

10.12.1 The inspector shall be on site during installation and randomly witness a minimum of 10 % of each type of firestop system being installed shall be inspected per floor or for each area of a floor when a floor is larger than 10 000 ft² (946.7 m²). An area consists of 10 000 ft² or less, or

10.12.2 The inspector shall conduct a post installation inspection, which shall require destructive type verification of the firestop system and repair of the firestop system. A minimum of 2 %, but not less than one, of each type of firestop system shall be inspected per floor or for each area of a floor when a floor is larger than 10 000 ft² (946.7 m²). An area consists of 10 000 ft² or less.

Note that in 10.12.1 the language was different than in 10.12.2. For consistency, this makes sense. Look for this to be submitted this fall.

FCIA's Program Committee provides topic ideas for FCIA's Education and Committee Action (ECA) and FCIA Firestop Industry Conference & Trade Show (FIC), along with webinars as well. This committee has produced programs that bring value to members.



FIRESTOP INDUSTRY ACTION CONTINUES AT ECA'25! (CONTINUED)

FCIA's Education Committee Chairs, Tyler Ferguson (National Firestop Solutions) and Aideen Doneski (Gleeson Powers), met with the Committee to discuss the Firestop Education Program status and development.

A review of Level 0's first draft took place, with some excellent suggestions provided and thoughts about how to distribute the program. Look for Level 0 to be launched later in 2025. With Level 1, 2, 3 launched, delivering education in multiple languages was also part of the discussion. The Chairs also stated that it is the intent to grow the FEP into multiple languages, as fast as resources will allow.

During the session, a question was asked to the Education Committee Chairs, "Is the FEP Program only for Contractors? NO...it's for Contractor and Inspection Agency Personnel, AHJ's, Specifiers, Engineers."

The group wrapped up with suggestions for future FCIA Firestop Education Programs and a statement that the FCIA FEP is designed by members with a dashboard for employers of firestop containment workers and firestop inspection agencies to monitor employee progress through FEP Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 programs.

Firestopping is a career. This provides a greater knowledge base from which companies can improve their competitive advantage!!

If your company has purchased the FCIA FEP Program, thanks. You have made a difference. If not, check out FCIA's Firestop Education Program. At \$1,000/yr with unlimited users allowed, FCIA's FEP Education Program is a bargain for the most in depth sessions you will find anywhere – worldwide.

FCIA's Accreditation Committee meeting with leaders Ben Urcavich (Performance Firestop) and Tyler Ferguson (National Firestop Solutions) covered topics from code and specification development to firestop exam statistics. On specifications, it was found that FM 4991 Approved & UL Qualified Firestop Contractors seem to be specified widely and are getting held much more than in years past. It was agreed that special inspection, nationwide contractor availability, and greater understanding by purchasers of firestopping's complexity seems to be why specs are getting held.

As most know, when someone does not know how listings work, the result is a big firestopping mess – slowed AHJ approval, the last minute firestop 'dash' to get code compliant.

FCIA's revision of the current Quality Management System template for contractors and inspection agencies was also discussed. The template should be published very soon. Members can find the current quality management system template in the [FCIA.org Members Only Section](#).

FCIA's Marketing and Membership Committee – Membership Chair and Vice Chair Mark Dietz (Superl) and Jerry Dugan, Jr. (Firestopping Specialist) joined Marketing Chair Aideen Doneski (Gleeson Powers) for great discussions. The Marketing Committee focuses on growing FCIA's exposure to key influences in fire and life safety in buildings. As a result, this committee has represented FCIA at NFPA's Expo, ICC Annual Conference & Expo, CSI's Annual Conference, International Facility Management Association, National Association of State Fire Marshals Conference, and many other industry events. The result is demand for FCIA member services and products, along with great industry discussions about how to improve fire and life safety in buildings.

Membership recruitment and retention is the Membership Committee focus, and both Marketing and Membership, along with all the other committee actions, mean the reason to join and renew at FCIA is more than being part of a 'club'. It's an investment in fire and life safety through the FCIA's 'DIIM'™ of Firestopping. The 'DIIM'™ is what sets us apart. Thanks for continuing to support the association through your dues. If you are not yet a member, or know someone who should be, [send them this link to Join FCIA Now!](#)





ICC HOLDS 2027 GROUP B, CAH 1 HEARING

The International Code Council's 2027 Code Development Process is in full swing with Committee Action Hearing 1 (CAH 1) for Group B, which took place in Orlando, FL recently.

Key items presented this hearing (but not final until the '27 IBC Code Development Process is completed in mid-2026) included:

- Eliminate need for patient room walls to extend above ceiling to the next horizontal assembly was approved as submitted.
- 4-Hour Fire-Resistance Ratings for floors in open and closed parking garages, residential and other occupancies, plus 4-hour shafts was Disapproved. The proposal was presented as "Sprinklers AND Passive Fire Protection" and even got positive vote from the sprinkler industry. There was also great feedback from the committee.
- Occupiable Roofs with fire-resistance ratings. Also disapproved, but guidance was provided from the committee for success (we hope) in the fall.

- Sprinklers were added to both open and closed parking garages.

In the 2024 Group A Sessions, a proposal from the Las Vegas Chapter of the International Code Council, if it passes in 2026, might eliminate bottom of wall firestopping. We think this is a fire and life safety risk and have provided input on a public comment to be heard in the April 2026 Public Comment Hearing.

There are two more hearings before any of this is formalized resulting in the 2027 International Building, and family of codes.

FIRESTOP SPECIAL INSPECTION

It seems much attention has been brought to firestop inspection over the past few years, but the discussion actually started in 1999. At an FCIA ECA Conference, FCIA's Standards Committee formed after a question was asked, "Why not firestop inspection?" to ICC's then VP of Codes. The answer, "Go build a standard, bring it to the code development process".

FCIA's Standards Committee hired a consultant to build the 1st draft of ASTM E2174 (2001) & ASTM E2393 (2004), then brought it to the ASTM development process, worked with manufacturers and consultants, and published both standards. We continue to travel to ASTM Meetings maintaining the documents.

FCIA saw this inspection trend coming when firestop inspection went into the 2012 IBC (with FCIA as proponent). To assure better qualified inspectors, we worked with FM & UL assuring the Firestop Exams are industry knowledge based and appropriate for anyone participating in firestopping, including both special inspection agency and contractor personnel. Know an inspection agency that should take the FCIA Education for the FM or UL Firestop Exam? Send them our way via [Email](#).

FCIA FM & UL FIRESTOP CONTRACTOR PROGRAMS

FCIA collaborated starting in 1999 to develop the FM 4991, Standard for the Approval of Firestop Contractors (2001) and UL Solutions in 2004-2007 to build the Qualified Firestop Contractor Program (launched 2006). The programs have spread from North America to other parts of the world through these specifications, and contractors believe it will make their company better. Seeing acceptance after 25 years brings better fire and life safety to buildings.

CONTRACTOR PROGRAMS AND BRANCH OFFICES

Many FCIA Member FM 4991 Approved or UL Qualified Firestop Contractors have multiple branch offices. Note that the FM 4991 Approval and UL Qualification is a 'location' based program. If the company has a separate branch, it needs to be FM or UL as well, with a separate DRI. That doesn't mean that if the company has a jobsite trailer that it's a branch office either. Questions? Check in with FCIA's office for FM Approvals and UL Solutions current contacts.



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.

ASTM MEETINGS

FCIA's Standards Committee travelled to Toronto, ON for ASTM E06.21 meetings in April to discuss ASTM E2174 and ASTM E2393, plus other items. Big news is that the work item underway to produce a standard practice on firestop identification systems was approved! Task Group Chair Jay McGuire and FCIA Staff adjudicated several negatives, all successful. After publication, there will be work to do to address negatives in individual ballots, getting it ready for 2030 code submissions.



ASTM INTERNATIONAL
Helping our world work better

UL TEDP

UL's new Technical Evaluation Developer Program for managing Engineering Judgments/Equivalent Fire-Resistance Rated Assemblies (EJ/EFRRAs) launched last year. EJ/EFRRAs are used when no tested and listed system exists for a particular situation – penetrations or joints and voids and perimeter fire containment systems. The TEDp is a management system-based quality program for developing EJ/EFRRAs. The firestop manufacturer builds a management system that controls EJ/EFRRAs development, processing, record keeping, certification testing and evaluation. UL actually randomly selects one EJ/EFRRAs for every 1,000 issued to fire test, not to exceed 15 tests per year.



Two firestop product manufacturers have become UL Qualified TED's – Hilti and Specified Technologies, Inc. Want to learn more? FCIA's Webinar provided great insight.



FCIA INTERNATIONAL HEARINGS

Fire-resistance-rated construction is getting a big boost from Abhishek Chhabra, FCIA's Director, International Initiatives. Abhi has been speaking, writing articles, attending key trade shows in Australia, India, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and US, just to name a few. He recently spoke at the India Fire College, with great engagement from attendees.

Abhi's work with the Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, UAE, and Qatar Civil Defence, along with other authorities in Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, and beyond is producing results. Watch for even more achievement announcements through summer and fall.



INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE & UL MACC

In the International Fire Code, Section 701.6 states that the building owner and manager shall have an "Inventory" and "annual visual inspection" of all passive fire protection elements.

After meeting with [FCIA's Accreditation Committee](#) at an FCIA Conference in 2018, UL Solutions developed a program for a jobsite specific audit – the Master Audit Certificate of Compliance (MACC). The audit is specific to a jobsite – which sets up the building owner for fire code compliance success – because it's renewable annually. UL Qualified Firestop Contractors, consider providing a MACC. Check out [FCIA's info page](#), and [UL's Link to the Contractor Programs](#).

CLEARSTORY SHEDS LIGHT ON COSTLY CHANGE ORDER CHALLENGES

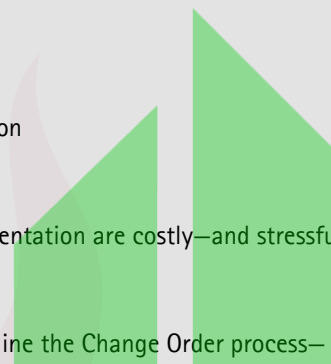
As part of their ongoing efforts to support Specialty Contractors, FCIA Associate Member Clearstory recently surveyed over 100 contractors—and the results highlight some of the most pressing challenges facing the industry today.

Change Order Requests (CORs) and out-of-scope work are eating up valuable time and resources. Here's just a snapshot of the data:

- Project Managers spend up to 15-hours per week managing out-of-contract work
- 3–4 weeks is the average time it takes to get a COR approved
- 40% of T&M Tickets are rejected due to missing or late documentation
- 70% of contractors say poor change order processing negatively impacts cash flow and job satisfaction
- 62% report strained relationships with General Contractors due to negotiation friction

These findings reinforce what many in our community already know: outdated processes and poor documentation are costly—and stressful. That's where Clearstory comes in.

As an FCIA Associate Member, Clearstory offers a digital solution that helps Specialty Contractors streamline the Change Order process—eliminating paperwork delays, improving documentation accuracy, and accelerating approvals. Their platform is transforming how contractors communicate, collaborate, and get paid. Want to explore the full survey findings or learn how Clearstory can help your team? Visit [clearstory.build](#) to learn more.



CLEARSTORY

FCIA PARTNERS

Have you heard? FCIA is traveling all over to spread the word on Passive Fire Protection. We know we are hard to keep up with, but not a problem. Follow us on LinkedIn to stay up-to-date with all that our Staff and Members are up to for the remainder of the year!

Catch us at THESE tradeshow in 2025!

- ASHE Health Care Facilities Innovation Conference – July 27–30, 2025 | Anaheim, CA

We'll be exhibiting at this cutting-edge healthcare facilities event to share how passive fire protection supports patient and staff safety in complex health environments. Booth presence only.

- NASFM Annual Conference – August 10–14, 2025

We're excited to support state fire marshals and code officials by showcasing the importance of firestopping and effective compartmentation. Booth details to come.

- IFMA World Workplace – September 17–19, 2025 | Phoenix, AZ

At this global facility management event, FCIA will have both a booth and pub bin, emphasizing how proper firestop system installation supports facility performance, compliance, and occupant safety.

- OFSEC – October 14–16, 2025 | Oman

Keep an eye out for Life Safety Digest in the publication bin at this international fire and safety conference as we continue expanding our global reach.

- ICC Annual Conference & Expo – October 19–20, 2025 | Long Beach, CA

With both a booth and pub bin, FCIA will be engaging directly with code officials and specifiers to promote better understanding and enforcement of fire-resistance-rated systems.

- ExpoFire AMRACI – October 27–29, 2025 | Mexico

We're looking forward to returning to Latin America with a strong presence in both the booth and pub bin, supporting regional education and awareness in LATAM around firestop systems.

EXCITING FCIA EVENTS!

FCIA-NFCA PasFiPro '25 Montreal, the annual Canadian Symposium, is this September 9–11, 2025 in Montréal, Québec. Registration is in full swing, and we're bringing together the best in Passive Fire Protection from across Canada and beyond. Join us for unmatched education, industry insights, and powerful conversations with exhibitors.



AND... Don't Forget!

Mark your calendars for FCIA's FIC '25 this October 13–16 in Orlando, FL!

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 26 years of growth with us!



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.

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.

NEW MEMBER



FCIA works hard to spread the word of the 'DIIM'TM 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 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

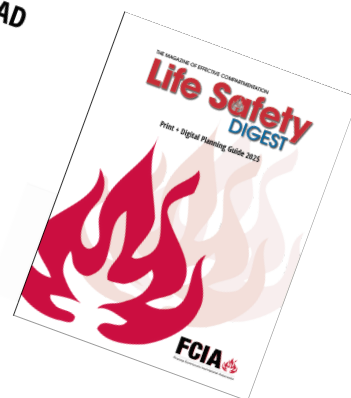
- Meyer Consulting Engineers Corporation
- Aadit Fire Testing Laboratory Private Limited

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.

DOWNLOAD
THE
2025
PRINT
+
DIGITAL
PLANNING
GUIDE



NEW CONTRACTOR MEMBERS

- Interior Building Contractors LLC
- Atlas Industries, Inc.
- OJ Specialty Contracting, LLC
- MG Construction
- Platinum Insulation Inc,
- Icon Insulation Inc.
- International Asbestos Removal, Inc.
- A1 Industrial Maintenance Inc.
- Les Distributions Styro Inc
- Hagerman Construction Corporation
- Bechtel National, Inc. – UPF Project
- Ontario Commercial Sealants Inc.

NEW CONTRACTOR INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

- ASIAN INTERNATIONAL
- CLG Technical Services
- Bab Ishtar Trading & Contracting Co. W.L.L.
(Electromechanical Works)
- Sky Specialized Co. Ltd
- Al Muhaidib Building Technology
- Thermilate Middle East Trading
- B3 Engineering PTE LTD

PLATNIUM SPONSOR



GOLD LEVEL SPONSOR



SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS



© Copyright FCIA June 18, 2025. Permission is hereby granted to forward, print, circulate, and quote with credit to FCIA. FCIA is a nonprofit organization of Firestop Contractors, Contractor Branch Offices, Manufacturers and Associate Members interested in furthering life safety through the Professional Specialty Firestop Contractor Concept. For more information, contact the FCIA Office: Lindsey Dutkiewicz, Executive Director ~ 800 Roosevelt Rd, Bldg C-312, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 Phone: +1 708-202-1108 ~ Email: info@fcia.org ~ Website: www.fcia.org