

THE FIRESTOP

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NEW 2024 ASTM 2174 & E2393 VERSIONS PUBLISHED

Inspection is a critical piece of the 'DIIM' of Firestopping – the proper 'D'esign, 'I'nstallation, 'I'nspection, 'M'aintaining Protection – formula for successful fire and life safety in buildings, and the Firestopping Industry is the first passive fire protection discipline to fully embrace this philosophy.

From the early days of FCIA (and prior), firestop industry leaders believed independent firestop inspection was one of the keys to better fire and life safety firestop installations. They believed that quality installations by qualified firestop contractors (FM 4991 Approved or UL Qualified) with independent inspection by competent inspection agencies and employees was not only best practice, but also resulted in the right value for the building owner.

That's why it was no surprise when we heard, "Why is there no firestop inspection in the code like there is for structural steel fireproofing?" at FCIA's ECA 1999.

And hence, the FCIA's Standards Committee was formed at that meeting, and immediately started work on ASTM Standards for firestopping, even going so far as to hire a consultant to write the first draft. With the manufacturers at ASTM Committee E06 in support of FCIA's efforts, the Firestop Inspection Standards ASTM E2174, Standard for on-site Inspection of Installed Firestop Systems (2001) & ASTM E2393, Standard for On-Site Inspection of Installed Fire Resistive Joint Systems and Perimeter Fire Barriers (2004) were published.

Throughout 2008 and 2009 and several ballots later – 65+ to be exact – and the Standards were refined for Code adoption. FCIA's Bill McHugh & Consultant to FCIA Bill Koffel were the proponent to add E2174 and E2393 to the International Building Code at the IBC's 2012 development cycle.

Now, 15 years later, ASTM E2174 & ASTM E2393 are showing great results with better installations today. But we didn't stop there. A recent update at ASTM's E06 Committee resulted in the 2024 updates to the ASTM E2174 & ASTM E2393 Standards.

So, what's new? The two Standards now include a reference in Section 6 to ASTM E3038, Standard Practice for Assessing and Qualifying Candidates as inspectors of Firestop Systems and Fire-Resistive Joint Systems. In section 6.1, Inspectors shall have qualifications.

6.1 Qualifications—An inspector shall be acceptable to the AHJ and shall meet at least one of the following requirements:

6.1.1 Meet the criteria contained in Specification E699 for agencies involved in quality assurance; or

6.1.2 Meet the criteria contained in Practice E3038; or

6.1.3 Have a minimum of two years' experience in construction field inspections and have education, credentials, and experience acceptable to the AA; or

6.1.4 Be a quality assurance agency accredited by the AHJ.



NEW 2024 ASTM 2174 & E2393 VERSIONS PUBLISHED... CONTINUED

As the industry and construction landscape continues to evolve and grow, future editions of ASTM E2174 and ASTM E2393 may even see more changes. For example, there will need to be ways for new inspectors to be qualified. Secondly, according to ASTM, Specification E699, Standard Specification for Agencies Involved in Testing, Quality Assurance, and Evaluating of Manufactured Building Components, was withdrawn, and a ballot will likely circulate this summer to delete the reference to E699 after the ASTM E06.21.16 Task Group approves the ballot. (FCIA's Bill McHugh serves as Chair of the Task Group and is honored to work with industry technical leaders on this TG.)

ASTM E699 was the only Standard available to reference when the ASTM E2174 and ASTM E2393 Inspection Standards were first published in 2001 and 2004. It is important to note that E699 is a company accreditation program for Inspection Agencies and is not just an individual qualification criteria



It has also been requested to add ASTM E329, Standard Specification for Agencies Engaged in Construction Inspection, Testing, or Special Inspection to the Standards. From FCIA's perspective, the issue with ASTM E329 is the mandate that a professional engineer (PE) is required to be on staff at the Inspection Agency. Many Firestop Inspection Agencies do not have PE's on-staff, and we are not convinced of its necessity.

What about ASTM E3038, you may be wondering. One of the reasons ASTM E3038 did not get into E2174/E2393 sooner was ambiguity surrounding the definition of the 'candidate' to be qualified. Originally, it was written that the 'individual or company' could be competent. That meant that one person at an Inspection Agency could take and pass the FM, UL, or IFC Firestop Exam, and the whole company would be deemed competent. Once that issue was resolved, adding E3038 flew through the ballot process into E2174/E2393 quickly.

Interestingly, FCIA worked with International Accreditation Services to build a firestopping section in IAS AC 291, Accreditation Criteria for Special Inspection Agencies. Likely, the Task Group will look at the rest of Section 6 in April to see what the next ballots might look like.

More on this in future Enewsletters.

FCIA MAKING INTERNATIONAL WAVES

Since June 2024, FCIA's Director, International Initiatives, Abhishek Chhabra has been making a difference for fire and life safety in many parts of the world. From health care and hospitality facility director organizations, to tall building designers, Civil Defense (Code Officials) in the Middle East region and India to fire protection Associations in Australia, Abhi and FCIA are making tracks worldwide. Keep your eyes and ears open to see what big things develop from all of these initiatives!



FCIA EDUCATES IN CANADA

FCIA Members Don Falconer (Falconer Engineering) and John Sharpe (Pro Firestop) are speaking at the upcoming Canadian Fire Safety Conference and Expo April 3, and we can't think of any better Canadian representatives for the fire-resistance industry.

Both Don and John have extensive experience presenting on fire-resistance. John has been instrumental at getting FCIA on several conference agendas at Canadian Code and Fire Officials events. He has also co-presented with FCIA's Bill McHugh on multiple occasions. And Don speaks regularly at FCIA & NFCA Conferences, and participates at UL Canada's Standards Development Process, and more.

Huge thanks to John and Don for putting their vast wealth of knowledge and experience to work to bring awareness to the firestop and effective compartmentation industry in Canada!

FCIA ALIGNS WITH INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS FOR GLOBAL FIRE-RESISTANCE EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

It's true, FCIA has been making tracks to share knowledge, educate, and advocate for Passive Fire Protection worldwide recently, but we've also been working to grow membership globally. How are we doing this? Through strategic partnerships around the world!

Recently, FCIA' signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Fire Protection Association of Australia (FPAA). We also signed MOUs with AMRACI in Mexico and LATAM PCI in South and Central America. These partnerships strategically align FCIA with these organizations to establish formal long-term relationships, to grow membership, and to partner to provide education and resources for improved Passive Fire Protection and fire and life safety.

Even more exciting is the fact that we are in conversations with other groups worldwide to spread the word on FCIA's 'DIIM' philosophy even further!

**HERE COMES
THE ICC CODE CYCLE!**

The International Code Council's 'Cycle B' development process for the 2027 I-Codes kicked off with submissions in January.

A monograph will be published mid-March and hearings take place April 28-May 6. This set of hearings covers the IBC Structural, General and Administrative, and Existing Building Codes. Look for a recap after the hearings in May.



FCIA & FPA MOU. FCIA Photo

FCIA & NFCA PARTNER FOR PASIPRO MIDDLE EAST EVENTS

Well, FCIA & NFCA were at it again...partnering to produce the PasFiPro Doha and Dubai Symposiums in the Middle East this February.

Each event featured a full-day of technical education on the Passive Fire Protection industry in the Middle East and welcomed a dynamic lineup of speakers and supporters.

The world tour began in Doha, Qatar with a welcome from Mr. Engr. Mark Bacsafra of Qatar Civil Defense, who also highlighted the importance of the PasFiPro program in Qatar. Attendees were treated to informational sessions from Abhishek Chhabra (FCIA & NFCA), Bill McHugh (FCIA & NFCA), Sourav Chatterjee (Lockton), and Ghaith Bakir (UL Solutions) that sparked several rounds of invigorating Q&A. Then, Firestop Contractors in Doha took steps to elevate their firestop game by sitting for the FM Firestop Exams.



Capt. Engr.
Mohamad Al Haneef.
FCIA Photo



PasFiPro, Dubai. FCIA Photo

Next up, FCIA Staff traveled to Dubai, UAE, where we were welcomed by Capt. Engr. Mohamad Al Haneef of Abu Dhabi Civil Defense and David Campbell of Emirates Safety Laboratory. This support from government showed the importance of Passive Fire Protection in all the Emirates. A highlight at the Dubai event was a presentation from Abu Dhabi's Civil Defense embracing FCIA's 'D'esign, 'I'nstallation, 'I'nspction, and 'M'aintaining Protection ('DIIM') philosophy. The session focused on the importance of the 'I' & 'I' – 'I'nstallation and 'I'nspction.

Watch for more from FCIA as it educates on the importance of the Global Language of Passive Fire Protection – not just firestopping – but all aspects of Passive Fire Protection.



FCIA PasFiPro, Doha,
Qatar. FCIA Photo

FCIA WEBINARS STILL EDUCATE MANY

In February, FCIA hosted a webinar on exterior walls and fire-resistance, with Rich Walke (CTI), consultant to FCIA, and Tony Crimi (AC Consulting Solutions), Consultant to IFC. Rich's experience in the ASTM E2307 Perimeter Fire Containment Standard development and Tony's work on ASTM E2874, Building Spandrel Panel External Fire Spread as Chair, resulted in an amazing program.

FCIA Members can log in to the Members Only Section to get educated on this important topic and to learn what each standard encompasses.



LIVE WEBINAR

Don't miss the March Webinar on Firestop Systems selection and analysis programs.

THE FIRESTOP MANUAL OF PRACTICE

FCIA Contractor Members have long asked for comprehensive, unbiased education for the workforce. FCIA's Board and Education Committee heard the request and answered the call, building the FCIA Education Program (FEP), an industry-changing, totally unique program that has revolutionized education for the firestop and effective compartmentation industry. And FCIA continues to pour into this program and develop content and upgrades to benefit the industry and our Members.

Two such updates were the Subscription-based pricing and Admin Portal. Think about it: unlimited users AND a management dashboard to follow employee engagement and progress through the program AND great education all for just \$1,000 annually?!? It's a no-brainer, really.

With the FEP Firestop Levels 1-3 Programs, you can educate everyone at your company, from the field tech you just hired to the seasoned project manager you've had for year. Anyone at your company can use the Firestop Level 1 – the 'DIIM' Sessions and Firestop Level 2 – Firestopping Materials & Systems programs, which dive deep on these two topics. Then, the Firestop Level 3 Program on Estimating & Project Management presents key questions every Estimator and Project Manager should be able to answer.

FCIA Contractor and Inspection Agency Members, there's no day like today. It's time to use FCIA's Firestop Education Program (FEP) to make your company better.



THE FCIA EDUCATION & COMMITTEE ACTION CONFERENCE

ECA '25, the FCIA Education & Committee Action Conference, is where things happen in the firestopping industry.

At ECA, you'll collaborate and help make fire and life-safety better in buildings. At ECA, cutting edge education is always a part of the program. Need to take the FM or UL Firestop Exam to get rolling with the FM 4991 Approved or UL Qualified Firestop Contractor Programs? You'll find both at ECA! Attend the cutting-edge education for the exams. Hear from FM about FM 4991 and UL about UL's Qualified Firestop Contractor Program. Meet with them. Meet with Firestop Leaders, to learn about how fire and life safety can be protected with firestop systems.

Don't miss this program in San Antonio, TX this May 12-15. Register Today!

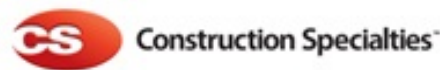
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