



PRESS INFORMATION

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Third Party Certification: What You Need to Know

PPPF publishes guide tackling thorny issue of certification

The Passive Fire Protection Federation is publishing a free six-page guide covering all aspects of product conformity and installer certification. *The Guide for Product and Installer Certification* will be available as a free download from the PFPF website (www.pfpf.org) and a hard copy "Pocket Guide".

Current guidance, as set out in Approved Document B and that to comply with the Fire Safety Order, recommends using third party certification to independently certify the products used to protect buildings against fire and the way in which these products have been installed. But none of the documents offers any guidance as to what constitutes third party certification. This potentially undermines the very system of independent certification by leaving the door open for unscrupulous contractors to offer their own certification. Being neither an independent nor expert assessment, a contractor's own certification is of doubtful value in providing the necessary level of assurance.

"The PFPF's guide provides all users, whether regulators or building owners/occupiers, with a comprehensive assessment of third party certification for both product conformity and installer certification," explains PFPF Chairman, David Sugden. "It sets out what all those involved need to know in order to select schemes that will help them ensure that the products used in, and contractors doing the installation of fire protection measures will meet the requirements of the

legislation. A failure to properly select products and installers would be a failure in the duty of care. Under the Fire Safety Order, the responsible person needs to know what is a good certification scheme and what is a bad one. The PFPF guide points you in the right direction.”

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Editors’ notes: The Passive Fire Protection Federation (PFPF - www.pfpf.org) is dedicated to growing awareness and giving advice on fire protection, and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRO). The Federation brings together the collective expertise of the passive fire protection industry and provides a central forum so that the Industry speaks with one voice to articulate the benefits and value of passive fire protection in the achievement of fire safe building design and construction.

Passive fire protection is the primary measure integrated within the constructional fabric of a building to provide inherent fire safety and protection by responding against flame, heat and smoke to maintain the fundamental requirements of building compartmentation, structural stability, fire separation and safe means of escape.

Passive fire protection measures achieve their intended purpose by raising the fire resistance of the structure, protecting the structure against the effects of fire, reducing fire spread through secondary ignition, limiting the movement of flame and smoke, and minimising the danger of fire-induced collapse or structural distortion.

Passive fire protection design, incorporating passive fire protection materials, systems and assemblies, serves by fire containment to protect life, safeguard the building structure, protect assets, maintain building serviceability after fire, minimise rebuild costs, and facilitate quick business recovery and continuity.

Our website www.pfpf.org carries advice on what to check and best practice in all passive fire protection measures

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