

USEFUL INFORMATION PUBLISHED BY PFPF

Two new publications, one designed to assist those that need to decide the suitability various types of passive fire protection (PFP) products and the other to inform contractors and manufacturers of their duties and responsibilities under the appropriate regulations when supplying and installing PFP materials, have just been introduced by the UK's **Passive Fire Protection Federation (PFPF)**. Both have been produced in cooperation with the Industry Enforcement Authority Liaison Group (IEALG) and in collaboration with the Fire Test Study Group.

The first new document entitled '**Proving the Performance of Passive Fire Protection Products**' has been written to guide those responsible for deciding the suitability of all types of PFP products, when presented with the many forms of report now available. It is specifically intended to assist during the transitional period when manufacturers and contractors may be offering products or systems, with a variety of test evidence, from either the traditional BS era or the new BSEN test methods. As such, it will be particularly useful to Building Control Surveyors, Fire Officers, Independent Inspectors and Designers, since recent amendments to the Building Regulations now allow the use of European fire tests and classes for products claiming fire performance.

The guide explains the three routes currently available to demonstrate product performance and describes the relevant supporting documentation that must be provided. The first route involves using existing British Standard tests and assessments to satisfy the existing performance requirements, in terms of test results to British Standards (i.e. the conventional AD-B route). The second route uses European Standard tests and classes to satisfy equivalent performance requirements expressed in terms of classes based on European Standards tests. For example, the conventional AD-B route, but with European classes. As with route one, assessments may be used to support product variation, but an assessment cannot confer a European classification on a product. Using this route does not allow the product to be CE marked. The third route involves using CE marking supported by a European classification, which gives the fire performance based on European Standard tests and/or an extended application. Where the classification does not cover the product variation or end use application route two may be used, but this would be outside of the product's CE marking.

The PFPF's new '**Guide to Regulating Passive Fire Protection and the Enforcement Authorities – 2004**' aims to educate and inform contractors and manufacturers of their duties and responsibilities under the appropriate regulations when supplying and installing passive fire protection products. It details the roles, powers and responsibilities of the three main enforcement authorities; Building Control, the Fire Authority and Trading Standards and covers all the primary pieces of legislation relating to PFP products.

The publication includes guidance as to who to contact in the event of a possible deficiency in the proving of performance (testing/assessment), specification, and installation of passive fire protection products. This could be one of the three enforcement authorities, the PFPF, or the individual members who make up the PFPF, all of whom are listed in the document.

Copies of both publications are available from the PFPF, Association House, 99, West Street, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 7EN, 01252 739152 or email pfpf@associationhouse.org.uk or through the web site www.pfpf.org.uk

NOTES TO EDITOR

(1): Membership of the IEALG includes: Association of Building Engineers (ABE), BM Trada Certification, BRE Certification (incorporating LPCB), Chief Fire Officers Association, Construction Products Association, Fire Test Study Group, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (incorporating Home Office), Passive Fire Protection Federation, Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), Trading Standards Institute and Warrington Certification Ltd (incorporating Certifire and FIRAS)

(2): For further information contact David Sugden on 07973 154065, or by e-mail at: david.p.sugden@btinternet.com

(3): Reader enquiries should be addressed to: PFPF, Association House, 99 West Street, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7EN

(4): Please arrange for a copy of any published item to be sent to: INITIAL CONTACTS, 21 Gannet Close, Southampton SO16 8ET

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