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THE TECHNOLOGY OF PASSIVE FIRE PROTECTION

Objectives

The Intumescent Fire Seals Association remains the only trade association dedicated to the science and application of intumescent sealing materials. Founded in 1982, the objectives of IFSA are:

To promote the life safety benefits associated with the use of intumescent and smoke seals.
To promote research and development into extending the areas where these benefits can be utilised.

To participate in the development of test procedures for fire protection products in BSI, CEN and ISO that are relevant, repeatable and reproducible.

Influence

IFSA has representation on many fire standards committees and is a regular commentator and advisor on proposed fire related legislation matters. The association has close links with the fire community, including legislators, test laboratories, insurers, certification/approval bodies and other trade organisations.

R&D activities

IFSA representatives sit on the EOTA Committee drafting standards for intumescent materials and fire sealing systems/products. These standards will establish the testing and certification methods for the CE marking of products. IFSA is involved with many research programmes for fire and smoke control and the development of standard test methods including:

- Cooperation with the Loss Prevention Council for the preparation of the "LPC Design Guide", and also various product test and performance schedules.
- A joint programme with the DOE/BRE to produce a standard configuration for fire testing pipe penetration seals, which became the basis for CEN test EN1366-3.
- The ongoing development of ISO standards for penetration seals and fire dampers.
- A programme of ageing tests, monitored by an independent body, which demonstrated that intumescent seals did not show any detectable decline in performance over a ten year period in a variety of controlled environments (further testing will be carried out after twenty years storage).
- BS8214: 1990 Code of Practice for Fire Door Assemblies, with many references to intumescent and smoke seals.
- BS476 Part 23: 1987 (Small scale testing of intumescent fire door seals).

The IFSA CODE 1999 is a comprehensive design guide entitled "***Sealing Apertures and Service Penetrations to Maintain Fire Resistance***". This Code of Practice sets out ways to ensure that fire stopping and sealing at all types of gaps and penetrations perform the required functions both in normal use and in fire. Advice is given on design factors, materials specifications, avoiding pitfalls and good site practice.

The IFSA Code is the definitive document on this important subject for architects, fire prevention officers, building services engineers, designers, building control officers and all concerned with safe building practices.

Technical Information Sheets

The IFSA Technical Information Sheets deal with critical subjects in passive fire protection. These are regularly updated to provide essential data for all involved with fire protection systems and materials. The current list includes:

- No. 1 Intumescent Materials in Timber Fire Doors
- No. 2 Intumescent Materials in Glazing
- No. 3 Smoke Seals in Doorsets
- No. 4 Ageing Performance of Intumescent Seals
- No. 5 Guide to the Selection of Smoke Seals for Doorsets

Guidance Documents

- No. 1 Door Seals
- No. 2 Penetration Seals
- No. 3 Glazing Seals in Timber Doors & Screens

Copies of the Technical Information Sheets as well as the Guidance Documents are obtainable from the Secretariat and are also downloadable from the IFSA website (www.ifsa.org.uk).

Companies achieving membership have all been assessed for quality management and product performance to the correct standards. Specifiers of their products can therefore be assured of product quality and performance.

IFSA provides a Technical Advisory Service for all users and specifiers of intumescent sealing products and smoke seals.

The association offers speakers for appropriate professional, technical and industry meetings. All enquiries to the Secretariat (See overleaf).

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