

Chairman: Mr R Settle, Sealmaster
Technical Committee: Mr P E Jackman (Chair), Mr P Baxter, Mr P Chudley, Mr P Horton, Mr A Scott, Dr E Southern, Mr A Walsh
Commercial Committee: Mrs M Simmonds (Chair), Mr R Settle, Mr J Quayle, Ms Sharon Reece
Technical Consultant: Mr PE Jackman, International Fire Consultants
Specialist Advisors: Mr P Baxter ✉ paul.baxter1000@yahoo.co.uk , Mr P Horton ✉ horton.p@talktalk.net

MEMBER COMPANIES

MANUFACTURERS

Abesco Limited
Laurencekirk Business Park
Laurencekirk
AB30 1EY
Mr Gary Metcalfe
Tel: 01561 377766
Fax: 01561 378887
✉ garymetcalfe@abesco.co.uk
www.abesco.com

Dufaylite Developments Ltd
Cromwell Road
St Neots, Huntingdon
PE19 1QW
Mr T Moscrop
Tel: 01480 215000
Fax: 01480 405526
✉ info@dufaylite.co.uk
www.dufaylite.com

Hodgson Sealants Ltd
Belprin Road
Beverley
HU17 0LN
Mr S Pounder / Mrs R Ward
Tel: 01482 868321
Fax: 01561 378887
✉ info@hodgsonsealants.co.uk
www.hodgsonsealants.co.uk

Intumescent Seals
Dixon International Group Ltd
Brewery Road
Pampisford
Cambridge, CB2 4EW
Mr A W Frost
Tel: 01223 832758
Fax: 01233 837215
✉ info@intumescentseals.co.uk
www.intumescentseals.co.uk

Lorient Polyproducts Ltd
Endeavour House
Fairfax Road,
Heathfield Ind Est
Newton Abbot, TQ12 4QS
Mrs M Simmonds/Mr Paul Chudley
Tel: 01626 834252
Fax: 01626 833166
✉ admin@lorientuk.com
www.lorientuk.com

Mann McGowan Fabrications Ltd
Unit 4, Brook Trading Estate
Deadbrook Lane
Aldershot
GU12 4XB
Mr A Scott/Mr K Hulin
Tel: 01252 333601
Fax: 01252 322724
✉ technical@mannmcgowan.co.uk
www.mannmcgowan.co.uk

Pyroplex Ltd
The Furlong
Droitwich
WR9 9BG
Mr A Walsh
Tel: 01905 795432
Fax: 01905 791878
✉ pyroplex@pyroplex.com
www.pyroplex.com

Sealmaster
Dixon International Group
Brewery Road
Pampisford
Cambridge
Tel: 01223 832851
Fax: 01223 837215
✉ sales@sealmaster.co.uk
www.sealmaster.co.uk

MATERIALS SUPPLIERS

BASF SE
Dept KSF/SL FT13 (Room 1)
Wormser, Strasse 125
67227 Frankenthal
Germany
Mr H Maier
Tel: +49 621 6042927
Fax: +49 621 608606053
✉ harry.maier@basf.com
www.basf.com

Minelco Specialities Ltd
Free Wharf
Brighton Road
Shoreham by Sea
BN43 6RE
Mr G R Mansfield
Tel: 01273 466620
Fax: 01273 464741
✉ gary.mansfield@minelco.com
www.minelco.com

DISTRIBUTORS

Noberne Seals Ltd
Lupton Street
Hunslet
Leeds
LS10 2QP
Mr RJ Agar / Mr JP Vollans
Tel: 0113 277 8577
Fax: 0113 277 2049
✉ nobernes seals@btconnect.com
www.nobernedoors.co.uk

Intumescent Fire Seals Association
20 Park Street, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP27 9AH
Tel: +44 (0)1844 276928 Fax: +44 (0)1844 274002
✉ admin@ifsa.org.uk www.ifsa.org.uk

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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