

Terms and Definitions In The United States

Learning these terms and Definitions will provide an important knowledge base to understanding the requirements for Firestopping.

- Fire Compartment
- Fire Separation
- Firewall
- Fire Resistance Rating
- Combustible Construction
- Noncombustible Construction
- Firestop System
- Firestop Systems Report
- Listed System Designs
- Service Penetration
- Firestop Material
- Single Component Firestop System
- Multiple Component Firestop System
- Tightly Fitted
- Third Party Testing Agency
- Authority Having Jurisdiction

Fire Compartment

Fire Compartment; means an enclosed space in a building that is separated from all other parts of the building by enclosing construction providing a Fire Separation having a required fire-resistance rating.

Fire Compartments are also referred to as Fire Zones.

Fire Separation

Fire Separation; means a construction assembly that acts as a barrier against the spread of fire. A fire separation may or may not have a fire-resistance rating.

Firewall

Firewall; means a type of fire separation of noncombustible construction which subdivides a building or separates adjoining buildings to resist the spread of fire and which has a fire-resistance rating as prescribed in the NBC and has structural ability to remain intact under fire conditions for the required fire-rated time.

Fire Resistance Rating

Fire Resistance Rating; means the time in hours or fraction thereof that a material or assembly of materials will withstand the passage of flame and the transmission of heat when exposed to fire under specified conditions of test and performance criteria.

Combustible Construction

Combustible Construction; means that type of construction that does not meet the requirement for noncombustible construction. Combustible means that a material fails to meet the acceptance criteria of test for determination of non-combustibility in Building Materials .

Noncombustible Construction

Noncombustible Construction; means that type of construction in which a degree of fire safety is attained by the use of noncombustible materials for structural members and other building assemblies. Noncombustible means that a material meets the acceptance criteria of test for determination of non-combustibility in Building Materials.

Firestop System

Firestop System; means a specific construction consisting of any device intended to close off an opening or penetration during a fire and/or materials that fill an opening in a wall or floor assembly where penetration is by cables, cable trays, conduits, ducts, pipes and any poke through termination device, such as electrical outlet boxes along with their means of support through the wall or the floor opening.

Firestop System Test Report

Firestop System Test Report; means results reported in accordance with the performance in the tests. (ref: ASTM E-814) .

Listed Systems Designs

The Accredited Testing Agency's informational listing developed from the Firestop System Test Report. This report depicts the correct use and installation procedures for firestop materials to create a Firestop System. F These published listings include:

- The assembly materials, the penetrating items and the firestop components, identified and described.
- Drawings depicting geometry, exact size (length, width, thickness) and location of firestop systems within the test assembly.

Service Penetration

Service Penetration; piping, tubing, ducts, chimneys, electrical wires and cables, totally enclosed noncombustible raceways, electrical outlet boxes and other similar building services that penetrate a membrane forming part of an assembly required to have a fire-resistance rating or a fire separation.

Firestop Material

Firestop Material; Firestop Material; means any device intended to close off an opening or penetration during a fire or materials that fill an opening in a wall or floor assembly where penetration is by cables, cable trays, conduits, ducts and pipes and any poke-through termination

devices, such as electrical outlet boxes along with their means of support through the wall or floor opening.

Single Component Firestop System

Single Component Firestop System; means a Firestop Material that has a Listed Systems Design and is used individually without the use of high temperature insulation or other materials to create a firestop system.

Multiple Component Firestop System

Multiple Component Firestop System; means the exact group of Firestop Materials that are identified within a Listed Systems Design to create a on site Firestop System.

Tightly Fitted

Tightly Fitted; means penetrating items that are cast in place in buildings of Noncombustible Construction or have "0" annular space in buildings of Combustible Construction. The words "tightly fitted" should ensure that the integrity of the fire separation is such that it prevents the passage of smoke and hot gases to the unexposed side of the fire separation.

Third Party Testing Agency

Third Party Testing Agency; means any accredited Standards Council notified testing agency approved to perform Fire Endurance Testing as outlined in this section of Work which includes any of the following agencies; Underwriters Laboratories (United States), UL mark. Intertek Testing Services . (formerly Warnock Hersey), WH mark .

Authority Having Jurisdiction

Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ); means the governmental body responsible for the enforcement of any part of the Standard codes or the official or agency designated to exercise such a function and/or the Architect.