

Fire performance labelling scheme

Technical note in association with ASFP and GPDA

The labelling initiative aims to identify fire walls used as compartment walls to installers, M&E contractors, building owners, and facilities managers, highlighting the risks of cutting service holes through the fire walls.

Such holes negate the fire resistance performance of the partition, allowing smoke and fire to pass from one compartment to another. This could lead to loss of life and extensive damage to the building, as well as having a huge impact on the business.

The Fire Performance Labelling Scheme is a partnership between the Association for Specialist Fire Protection (ASFP) the Gypsum Products Development Association (GPDA) and FIS.

The labels can be printed on 60m rolls of self-adhesive tape or as individual self-adhesive labels, and installed as part of a quality process by the principal contractor or specialist subcontractor from a free to use pdf available at <https://www.thefis.org/fire-label>

This simple scheme will ensure that retrofit contractors are aware when a partition is a compartment wall designed to provide protection from fire and prevent its spread, and that any penetration must be made good to maintain its performance.

Placed at high-level, where the penetrations are likely to pass through the partition and above the line of any suspended ceiling, the labels will identify any partition that is fire-rated and highlight where to seek advice before cutting holes through it. Each label contains a

link via a QR code to webpage, providing advice on how to correctly 'fire stop' the work to ensure the performance of the partition is maintained using a STOP, THINK, PLAN CHECK, RECORD process.

Stop

This is a fire wall. It is designed to provide a compartment to stop the spread of fire for a period to allow the occupants to safely escape in the case of a fire.

Any holes in the fire wall will allow fire and smoke to spread beyond the fire wall and may result in the loss of life.

Think

To ensure that the fire wall's performance can be maintained, the position, size and construction of the opening should be designed in accordance with the fire wall manufacturer's detail otherwise the warranty on the wall will be voided.

Plan

Understand the construction of the fire wall (from the O&M manual), the services the size position and construction of the service opening and the fire stopping proposed to seal the opening.

Check

- That the design of the service opening is compliant with the fire wall manufacturer's details
- That the proposed firestopping is third party certified and applicable to the size and type of opening and the services passing through the opening.

- That the person designing the opening and specifying the firestopping is competent
- That the person constructing the service opening is competent
- That the person installing the fire stopping is third part certified

Record

Ensure that

- The new service runs are recorded on the asset register for the building
- The service opening is photographed and added to the asset register
- The fire stopped opening is photographed, labelled showing the product used, date of installation, next inspection and who installed it



By identifying the location of such partitions and providing an instant link to advice, the three associations hope to assist contractors, building owners and facility managers in maintaining the integrity of all such compartment walls.

The labelling scheme will also help the ‘responsible person’ manage any retrospective work where cabling or ducting has to pass through a performance partition. It will reduce the risk of breaching the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, and help building owners avoid costly and disruptive remediation work, while ultimately saving life and property.

The label should be installed on completion of the work, in the void above a suspended ceiling and below a raised floor. It should only be installed where the partitioning has been specified and installed to meet a fire performance rating.

For further information visit

<https://www.thefis.org/fire-label>

Further reading

ASFP On-Site Guide to Installing Fire Stopping

https://data.asfp.org.uk/default.php?cmd=210&doc_category=606

FIS Firestopping of service penetrations

<https://www.thefis.org/membership-hub/publications/best-practice-guides/firestopping-of-service-penetrations/>

ASFP Fire Stopping and Penetration seals for the construction industry (Red Book)

https://data.asfp.org.uk/default.php?cmd=210&doc_category=121