TGN-012
Steel Coatings Guidance

Introduction

Technical guidance notes serve to validate and elaborate on the proven fire stop systems offered by FSi Limited. These notes offer valuable advice to specifiers, designers, and installers, focusing on specific applications, configurations, and aspects relating to fire stopping systems and materials. The document provides guidance on practical and effective recommendations, aiding in the selection criteria for firestopping products and systems for a project. Furthermore, this insightful advice is instrumental for building owners and individuals responsible for the maintenance and installation of fire stopping systems.

This technical guidance note addresses the number of issues which may occur if the use of coatings, specifically those of an intumescent nature, are to be used to protect steels in conjunction with the use of FSi Promat products abutting them.

FSi Promat Guidance

FSi Promat products are fire stopping products, this means they are manufactured with the primary intention of reinstating the fire resistance within a fire rated assembly. This means they are not specifically tested to provide any form of fire resistance protection to steels themselves, for this, we would recommend speaking to Promat directly.

When proposing a fire stopping system in areas where it will interface with steels, coated with intumescent paint, several important considerations must be addressed.

1. Compatibility with Intumescent Coatings

It is essential to confirm that the selected fire-stopping system is chemically compatible with the intumescent coating applied to the steel. Any adverse interactions could compromise the integrity of the coating and its fire-protection properties.

2. Allowance for Intumescent Expansion

Intumescent paints require an expansion zone to activate and provide adequate fire protection to the steel. If a fire-stopping system is installed against the coated steel, this expansion may be restricted, potentially leaving the steel unprotected in those areas.

3. Fire-Stopping Scope and Limitations

FSi Promat systems are tested and certified for compartmentation purposes, not for steel protection. As such, we cannot determine or guarantee the level of fire resistance that our systems might offer when in contact with intumescent-coated steel or steel beams.

Conclusion

For applications involving both FSi Promat fire-stopping products and intumescent coatings, compatibility and design considerations are critical. The proposed systems should be evaluated to ensure they meet the required fire-protection standards without compromising the performance of either component. For further guidance on steel protection, please consult directly with Promat or a qualified fire-protection specialist. The ASFP Advisory note 18 can offer further guidance on this topic. Technical Documents - Association for Specialist Fire Protection

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