



Quality Alert

MEP Alert – Fire Damper Installations

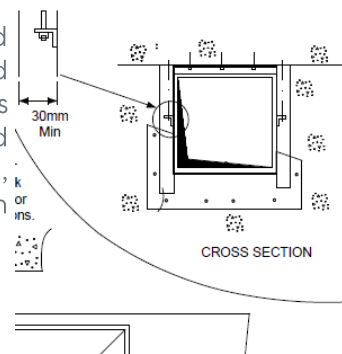
ISSUE

It has become of significant concern to Morgan Sindall on some projects that Fire/smoke dampers are not being installed, inspected or signed off adequately, in accordance with the fire damper manufacturers standard details. This is causing compliance issues at handover, as well as subsequent defect issues with access and maintenance. The Building Control Officers we work with have similar concerns, and will no longer accept a simple 'tick sheet' type sign off. This is therefore a critical issue which will affect Handover if not dealt with correctly.

DETAIL

Every fire damper manufacturer has their own set of standard details which have been tested in the lab and which we should **always** endeavour to achieve at design stage and on site. This means that the builderswork opening and FD fixing details should follow their specific requirements, all FD's should be in their own, correctly sized bwk opening (with no other services routed within the same opening) and the correct fixings must be used.

See typical Actionaire detail and wording image.



NOTES:
Process as drawing AAF3521

Refer to BRE assessment
P107620-1003.

If your proposed installation details differ from that shown here, please discuss this with the Building Control Authority (BCA), referencing this documentation, associated fire tests, assessments, and other documentation shown below. Deviation from this drawing requires the approval of the relevant authority.



BWK hole with multiple service penetrations, where additional blockwork and lintel had to be installed retrospectively to achieve a 'standard' installation.

This will only be possible if the Stage 3 and 4 design (often developed by the clients design team) takes full cognisance of these requirements, and this is followed through into our supply chain design and installation.

This approach will allow a simple sign off process with the Building Control Officer and full compliance with all relevant standards (specifically Building Regs Part B).

Where it is impossible to achieve the standard installation, the design has to be reviewed by a suitably qualified fire engineer who will make an 'engineering judgement'. This engineer could be from a fire stopping specialist (Rockwool/Hilti etc) or a specialist fire testing service. They will review the details and provide a judgement on how the particular opening should be fire stopped such that it would be expected to pass a test in the lab. These engineering judgements will cost time and money and should be understood and dealt with at design stage.

Sign off of the FD installation would then be achieved by a schedule of standard installation locations plus any engineering judgement designs. These should all be agreed with the BCO/FO prior to installation.

This advice should be used, where the above is applicable, and the information discussed with your team highlighting the following points:

- Check tender drawings and details and add clarification/assumption notes to bid where necessary
- Ensure our design teams and MEP supply chain are aware of this issue and are designing to the damper manufacturers standard details
- Review builderswork drawings and MEP drawings closely to check compliance, to ensure every fire damper has its own penetration, compliant with the standard details
- Discuss with BCO/Fire engineer at an early stage to agree sign off process, and seek the fire engineers advice when deviating from standard details



Everyone has the right to be

100% Safe