The Quality Pathway – Defect Avoidance

MORGAN SINDALL CONSTRUCTION

Fire Protection

To facilitate this ambition of getting the quality right, these checks should take place:

- Are the fire requirements properly specified and understood?
- Ensure any fire spray is compatible with the finish on the steelwork and that the applied finish is suitable for the section of the steelwork
- If a spray-on fire protection is required to ceilings, have all fixings / droprods been installed for M&E services?
- Can intumescent paint be applied to the existing finish on the steelwork? Is it compatible? Is a sealer required?
- Check that the width and depth of intumescent mastic gives the required protection
- Ensure ambient conditions are suitable for application of intumescent paint, especially surface temperature of steel
- Only use water-based (rather than solvent-based) intumescent spray if steel to be sprayed could be even slightly damp, or open to the elements after spraying – (site application)
- Although more effective, solvent-based intumescent sprays should only be used in a controlled environment
- Ensure thickness of any intumescent paint protection is checked before application of top coat. Wet / dry film thickness
- Has fire stopping been detailed between cladding and frame? Probably required at 20m intervals
- Has fire stopping been detailed within large areas of raised flooring? Probably required at 20m intervals
- Ensure that the intumescent mastic is applied behind any masonry or other fixings. Beware gaps in mastic
- Ensure that any adhesives used are compatible with the background
- Check that any making good or joint filling to fire boards is acceptable. Joints between boards should be smoke tight
- Can joints in the fire board be butted, or should they be staggered?
- Is the correct fire certificate available for any fire doors including the door frames? Are vision panels the same size as tested? If not, check with supplier and obtain a further assessment or test
- Check for smoke and intumescent seals on doors
- Have all gaps around the door frames been properly sealed? Is the material suitable?
- Ensure fire protection is continuous around service penetrations. Is the material being used suitable?
- Are fire dampers required / provided?
- Consult with the steel frame supplier on the compatibility of the primer.

Important

If in doubt about any of the above requirements, or materials to use, seek expert guidance