

## PRODUCT EVALUATION

International Fire Consultants manage a range of objective fire product testing and assessment services (complemented by our independent advisory approach), to provide market confidence and assurance for specifiers, whilst also enabling products to reach the market promptly and efficiently.

Building Regulations require that Fire Safety provisions, systems and products are performance assured. IFC Fire Safety Engineers provide independent and expert opinion in all areas of fire testing and in the assessment of the performance of materials in instances of fire.

Comprehensive and impartial reports on expected product performance, based upon empirical test evidence, will ensure that our clients have all the information available to use appropriate materials and products that meet legal and stated performance criteria.

IFC Group remain independent of all product suppliers, installers and manufacturers, so we can guarantee a confidential and impartial service and provide you with trustworthy and objective recommendations.

### FIRE TEST MANAGEMENT

The IFC Group are experts in all areas of fire testing. Through our knowledge of relevant standards, we can advise our clients on how to ensure products comply with fire legislation. By combining our fire testing expertise with our fire engineering

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experience, we often identify innovative new ways for clients to utilise and market their products.

To maintain our independent status, we do not run our own test laboratories. As recognised experts in all areas of fire testing, we regularly manage the process of testing and assessing the fire performance of products and materials, giving the assurance sought by many of the industry's leading manufacturers.

This includes reaction and resistance to fire testing of materials and structures; timber fire doors, penetration seals, cavity barriers, load-bearing and non load-bearing wall systems, glazed screens.

## ENGINEERING ASSESSMENTS

Our experience across a range of passive fire protection systems allow us to develop robust Engineering Assessments and bespoke system solutions based upon relevant test data so you can satisfy design and site requirements without compromising on materials or safety.

IFC can assist in satisfying architectural design criteria and specific site requirements, by confidently determining the acceptable flexibility, tolerance, and usage variations that construction products have from their originally tested specification.

Fire resisting assemblies are rarely supplied in an identical form to that which was tested. A fire resistance test report will therefore only identify exactly the element which was tested and the subsequent result it achieved, with no variations or opinions expressed within the report.

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The proposed specification for the building element will invariably require the construction to be supplied at a size, in a mode (such as with glazing apertures, glass, bespoke frames, building hardware) which are different from that tested. If an approving authority does not feel technically able to make a judgement to cover such variations, or, does not wish to take responsibility for them, then a 3rd party expert opinion is often sought.

This is precisely when IFC's knowledge and experience will provide confidence, minimise risk and ensure projects are able to continue to time and to specification.

In collaboration with many prominent architects and manufacturers our Fire Safety Engineers use their intimate knowledge of current legislation and standards, to provide valuable insight into effective Research and Development (R&D) processes for new products, as well as advise on how to bring existing ones up to required levels.

## FIELD OF APPLICATION REPORTS

In certain situations, it is necessary to produce a Field of Application (FOA) Report for a product. By bringing together numerous fire-resistant test reports into a single practical document that outlines the variations and permitted parameters, IFC can demonstrate the range of situations in which the product's fire performance criteria remains valid.

The report provides professional guidance to a manufacturer/fabricator or installer enabling them to produce a 'compliant' and 'fit for purpose' product/system for the building owner. In supplying an FOA report with a product, manufacturers can reduce the risk of incorrect installation.

In addition to providing confidence in production and installation; the IFC FOA reports will provide clients with a high degree of certainty regarding the range of situations in which their product can be marketed and sold.

