Advisory Note 1.02 – Nonstandard_Non- CE Fire Damper Installations.

Fire dampers should be adequately fire tested and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The standard for fire safety products involves CE marking based on evidence of performance in standard tests, factory production control, quality management and the associated declarations of performance.

Nonstandard installations are not intended to replace or substitute any available CE compliant detail.

They are offered as a solution to fulfil an on-site requirement only where a CE compliant detail is not available or achievable.

Any nonstandard installation detail provided by Safegard Systems is to be viewed only as an expert opinion and it may not have been completely tested. It gives a conservative 'expected' fire resistance if the product and installation method where subjected to a standard test. They are based on information provided to us by our customer at the time.

Introduction

When CE compliance (see Advisory Note 1.01) is not possible, nonstandard installations can be considered for use in certain applications.

Deviations from CE should always be based on suitable test evidence for the specific performance characteristic under review. Where the expansion of the scope of application is sought i.e. reaction to fire, fire resistance or smoke control , evidence is required on the same or similar products tested in a suitably similar configuration.

In some bespoke nonstandard installations, a CE compliant detail may not be available and hence CE is not possible. In Ireland there is an option to fall under the scope of the Building Control Amendment Regulation (BCAR) whereby a design team can agree an installation detail in the absence of / or where a CE compliant detail is not achievable i.e., the design team can agree on a detail and sign it off under their own professional indemnity (PI) cover.

Alternatively, due to our specialist experience and PI cover, Safegard Systems can be engaged to provide this service and look after the design and sign-off on a non-CE / nonstandard installation which will be project and product specific.

These opinion- based nonstandard installations are applicable to the Irish market only.

Safegard Systems will only issue nonstandard installation details were suitably similar test evidence can be referenced as the foundation for any expansion of scope.

The process involves;

1. Safegard receive a request for a nonstandard fire damper installation detail where a CE certified installation is not available or possible.
2. A review of the compartment type, construction detail and the required performance suitability.
3. If suitable, a review is made based on comparisons to performance of the exact damper type in similar tested installations.
4. Safegard shall receive written instruction and/or official engagement to proceed (normally in the form of a purchase order).
5. Safegard Systems may then prepare an installation drawing with input from our engineers and relevant consultation with installing contractor / project designers / fire consultants. This nonstandard drawing may detail items such as materials used, construction element, fixings, supports, fire-stopping, etc.
6. Staged return site visits (qty to be agreed in advance) to inspect compliance of first of kind / benchmark installation with offered detail.
7. Assist with the photo library during build-up of install types noting damper references.
8. Final late stage site walk & damper inspection including opening size, confirm fixings, screw pull tests, supports and fire stopping, etc.
9. Confirmation of compliance with offered detail and issuing of report and BCAR ancillary certificates where required.

Safegard cannot retrospectively sign off on any nonstandard installation detail were we have not been involved in the entire process above. The ad hoc installation of fire dampers which are out of compliance with a manufacturers fire tested systems should be avoided and be considered unacceptable.

Safegard cannot sign off on the installation of other manufacturers dampers. We only have detailed access to the relevant tests records and classification reports of our own products on which to base nonstandard installation details.

Installation details based on expert opinion are offered in good faith and would be expected to be valid for the lifetime of the building but may be validated or invalidated at any time by any subsequent testing of the configuration.

A brief explanation of **other types** of Tests, Reports & Assessments;

Standard Test
The results of such a test are the subject of a full report in accordance with the relevant Standard. The report will be comprehensive, with full details of the construction of the test specimen and the testing process. Forms the basis of CE and the associated declarations of performance.

Direct Field of Application (DIAP)
Test results deemed equally valid for slight variations which allows CE.

Extended Field of Application (EXAP)
Application of permitted rules based on test evidence to create a report from a notified body which allows CE.

Indicative Test
Should give the data relevant to the test result but shall not interpret those results against any classification requirements. The test may relate to an investigation which utilised the test methodology given in EN 1366-2; the full requirements of the Standard however may not have been complied with. The information is provided for the test sponsor's information only and should not be used to demonstrate performance against the Standard nor compliance with a regulatory requirement.

Ad-hoc Test
A test which has been performed to a non-standard procedure, in the absence of a Standardised procedure, but which utilises the principles of fire resistance testing given in the relevant test method. Testing procedure may not be subject to any British or European standard specification, but the test utilised general principles of fire resistance testing given in EN 1366-2.

Assessments
Normally carried out by independent, third party entities, such as 'notified bodies' or 'accredited laboratories' and produced in accordance with the principles in EN 15725:2010 "Extended application reports on the fire performance of construction products and building elements". It is a technical evaluation of the likely performance of a component or element of structure if it were subjected to a relevant standard fire test. The process should be based on sound technical principles and foundation test evidence. Recommendations made, may be referred to as 'Technical Evaluations' or 'Engineering Judgements'. An assessment should be written so that any subsequent reviewer can understand the underpinning evidence, the assumptions made and the competence of the assessor in making the assessment. An Assessment or Technical Evaluation should be based on conservative scientific principles and should be written by a competent individual/organisation who accepts design liability. Assessments or engineering judgements cannot lead to a formal European classification.