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New register makes it easy to check fire safe products and installers online

A new and unique fire safety register provides a quick and easy way to find certification schemes for fire safety products and for installers fitting them.

Produced by the Passive Fire Protection Federation and available on its website www.pfpf.org.uk, the register lists all the relevant certification bodies - organisations licensed to provide an independent assessment of fire-safety products, services and installers.

David Sugden, Chairman of the PFPF comments: “It’s essential that all fire safety or fire resistant products must be installed correctly and used according to their original specification. If fire doors, for example, aren’t fitted correctly, are used with different hardware from that specified or are altered by, for example, shaving an edge or putting a cat-flap in (this does happen!) then it will not perform as it should. Fire evacuation plans based on a fire door giving 30 minutes resistance, say, will be useless. This register should be used as an invaluable tool for specifiers, contractors and building owners and operators - especially as the latter are responsible by law for a building’s fire safety.”

Simply look for the category you are interested in and links to the relevant certification bodies are displayed. Follow the links to the scheme’s website to find all relevant information including a list of accredited companies. It’s also useful if you are looking for accreditation yourself - whether you are a manufacturer, installer or risk assessor, one of the listed certification bodies will be able to help.

Companies accredited by the schemes on the register will use certified products, made to exactly the same specification or formulation as the tested product. They will produce a Certificate of Conformity, acceptable to Building Control in the case of new construction and to Risk Assessors after work in an existing building. Third Party Certified Risk Assessors will be trained and qualified in producing valid fire risk assessments.

For more information visit www.pfpf.org.uk

END

332 words

Image attached:

1. Fire is a serious threat - using certified products and installers is a must
2. Every penetration of fire safety compartment must be sealed correctly

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Editors' notes: The PFPF (www.pfpf.org) is the body for the built-in fire protection industry, and is dedicated to growing awareness on fire protection, and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Membership includes the Chief Fire Officers Association, the DCLG, Local Authority Building Control and the Fire Test Study Group (UK) Ltd.

The PFPF Strategy Group includes members who were involved professionally in investigating and advising on previous disasters such as the Summerlands Leisure Centre, Kings Cross, write for the trade and fire service media and recently appeared on television commenting on the Channel Tunnel fire and the tragic fire at Lakanal House. **For informed, unbiased and professional comment please contact Jane Rigby at MRA Marketing on jane@521621.com who will put you in touch with the relevant person.**

Third Party Certification of Products and Installers of Fire Protection in buildings

Below is a quote from Approved Document B of the Building Regulations. Similar wording is used in all the guidance documents issued by the DCLG for Risk Assessment as required by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order and the PFPF has issued guidance on what to look for in schemes at www.pfpf.org.uk.

Third party accredited product conformity certification schemes not only provide a means of identifying materials and designs of systems, products or structures which have demonstrated that they have the requisite performance in fire, but additionally provide confidence that the systems, materials, products or structures actually supplied are supplied to the same specification or design as that tested/assessed.

Third party accreditation of installers of systems, materials, products or structures provides a means of ensuring that installations have been constructed by knowledgeable contractors to appropriate standards, thereby increasing the reliability of the anticipated performance in fire.

Building Control Bodies may accept the certification of products, components, materials or structures under such schemes as evidence of compliance with the relevant standard. Similarly, Building Control Bodies may accept the certification of the installation or maintenance of products, components, materials or structures under such schemes as evidence of compliance with the relevant standard. Nonetheless, a Building Control Body will wish to establish, in advance of the work, that any such scheme is adequate for the purposes of the Building Regulations.

Many certification bodies which approve such schemes are accredited by UKAS.

For further information on Approved Document B go to:

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/buildingregulations/approveddocuments/partb/bcapproveddocumentsb/documentb>

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