



News Release: NOVEMBER 2014

Dublin offers warm welcome to EAPFP

Chief Fire Officer Pat Fleming, chair of the Chief Fire Officers' Association in Ireland, offered a warm welcome to members of the European Association for Passive Fire Protection (EAPFP), who met in Dublin on 26-27 November to discuss issues affecting the fire protection sector across Europe.

Highlighting the importance of such international meetings in improving levels of fire safety, Mr Fleming opened the discussions by providing a brief introduction to the situation in Ireland.

He explained that poor standards of construction during the mid-2000s had led the Government to introduce more onerous building regulations. The Building Control Amendment Regulations (BCAR) place more responsibility on designers and specifiers to ensure that buildings are being constructed correctly. But, said Mr Fleming, there remain concerns surrounding the competency of installers and those with responsibility for ensuring fire safety.

The issue of competence formed a main topic of discussions throughout the event, with many representatives declaring that they were involved in initiatives aimed at educating installers, specifiers, designers and enforcement authorities. Training courses to improve installer skills were being launched in Norway and the UK, while seminars aimed at improving skills and highlighting the importance of using third party certificated products and installers for passive fire protection were being held in many countries.

Changing building methods, materials and processes were also of concern to most delegates, who suggested that the building regulations within their states were not keeping up with changes of technology and more widespread use of fire safety engineering. With developers being encouraged to improve energy efficiency and thermal insulation within buildings, the use of combustible building products has become more common. The need for large-scale testing of products to better reflect their as-built performance was highlighted as key to ensuring the safety of modern buildings.

CE marking was also discussed, with the lack of harmonised European Standards for many fire protection products and the presence of various national marks, seen to be creating ambiguity and confusion. Delegates agreed that, while there are voluntary approvals in several countries, such certification marks must never conflict with a CE mark.

Summing up the event, EAPFP President Vicente Mans said:

“The EAPFP aims to identify issues of interest and concern affecting its members throughout Europe. As a result of this meeting, we have identified a number of key areas where a European wide campaign may be beneficial and where we can develop future initiatives to raise awareness of passive fire protection throughout Europe and improve the standard of installation.”

EAPFP members are national associations representing manufacturers, contractors and other institutions involved in passive fire protection. They meet twice each year to discuss issues affecting the European fire industry. For further information on the EAPFP, visit www.eapfp.com; tel: +44 (0)1420 471616; e-mail: admin@eapfp.com



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Notes to Editors

EAPFP was formed in 1988 to act as a European voice on behalf of national associations representing manufacturers, contractors and other institutions involved in the fire protection to steelwork, timber, and other passive fire protection applications, including penetration seals and ductwork.

Countries represented by EAPFP members include Austria; Belgium; Cyprus; Denmark; France; Germany; Ireland; Italy; Netherlands; Norway; Russia; Spain; and UK.

The Association campaigns to raise the standard of fire safety in buildings and offers a range of publications and guidance notes in several languages. The EAPFP also has representation on the European Union Technical Committees involved in developing product standards across Europe.

For further information:

Reader enquiries:

European Association for Passive Fire Protection

Kingsley House, Ganders Business Park, Kingsley, Bordon GU35 9LU.

Tel: 01420 471616; **Website:** www.eapfp.com; **Email:** admin@eapfp.com

Press enquiries:

For further information and a high resolution image please contact:

Anna Hayes, Initial Contacts, 14 Helen Road, Oxford OX2 0DE

Tel: 01865 723600; **Mob:** 07944 684586; **Email:** initialcontacts@btinternet.com

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