

ADVISORY NOTE 0.0

ASFP Technical Guidance Explainer - Purpose and Status

The ASFP Colour Books have been developed to give detailed guidance on the design, specification, testing and certification, installation and inspection of the many different product families of passive fire protection system. Each different fire protection product family has been identified with a different colour so as to aid the user by simplifying the identity of the books.

Each of the ASFP Colour Books is backed up by a suite of ASFP guidance documents titled either Technical Guidance Documents (TGDs) or Advisory Notes (ANs). ASFP guidance documents exist to provide:

- Industry-considered opinion on the design, installation, maintenance, and inspection of Passive Fire Protection (PFP).
- Further, they may provide clarification in areas where:
 - Building Regulations Guidance documents lack detail,
 - Test standards are ambiguous, or a common application is not covered by the test standards,
 - The industry shows inconsistent interpretation of these.

There are separate ASFP Technical Guidance Documents (TGDs) that cover the inspection and maintenance requirements of each fire protection system, linked back to their parent colour book. The processes laid out within the Design Guide and Golden Thread guide (Gold Book) will reference these ASFP documents, in particular, the TGDs that contain the detailed design, installation and inspection checklists. The detailed design section further breaks design down to consider descriptive performance and prescriptive information requirements.

Other ASFP Technical Guidance Documents (TGDs) and Advisory Notes (ANs) have been prepared to give guidance and direction for specific areas of concern relating to Passive Fire Protection systems. The primary difference between a Technical Guidance Document and an Advisory Note is simply the length and complexity of the topic covered. An Advisory Note is a simple document highlighting one individual topic, whereas a TGD may be more involved and around 10-20 pages long. It should be stressed that all ASFP publications are aimed to provide guidance in support of best practice. They are not a regulatory document.

It should be noted that ASFP guidance should not be used inappropriately:

- It does not have legal status or authority.
- It does not replace:
 - Building Regulations or statutory guidance (AD-B etc),
 - British/European test standards,
 - Manufacturer test evidence,
 - Formal fire engineering assessments.
- It does not provide case-specific design solutions or bespoke assessments.

Compliance with an ASFP document does not of itself infer immunity from legal obligation.

ASFP Published Guidance documents are prepared following a rigorous process. Once a topic is agreed, they are drafted by members of the relevant ASFP Technical Group (TG). ASFP TGs comprise ASFP member organisations from the different sectors of industry including PFP manufacturers and system owners, installers, inspection bodies, test and certification bodies.

Once drafted, the document is agreed by the relevant TG. This may include a wider peer review where appropriate. The draft document is then validated through ASFPs headline Technical Committee (TCOM) and ultimately members of ASFP's Council before publication.



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