

ISSUES SURROUNDING SERVICE SUPPORT CENTRES



Introduction

There has been some concern raised by some manufacturing and installing members of ASFP regarding the centres of supports for cables and pipes running through penetration seals serving fire barriers.

There is often a conflict between the centres covered by the fire test/assessment/certification evidence and the centres required by the service providers which are usually different. Often the services are installed before the walls are built and therefore it is inevitable that in a significant number of cases, the supports will not fall inside the scope of test/assessment/certification evidence provided by installers and manufacturers of penetration seals.

This issue was discussed in a recent ASFP certification Task Group where it was agreed that a) this is really a client issue and b) the penetration seal installer should include the centres as part of his tendering process. It was further suggested that an industry statement is needed stating that manufacturers and installers of seals can only provide technical back up to what is tested/certificated because this is defined in the fire test standard. It was also suggested that this document should be supplied as part of the tendering process. The statement follows:

“ASFP statement

There has been some concern raised by some manufacturing and installing members of ASFP regarding the centres of supports for cables and pipes running through penetration seals serving fire barriers.

There is often a conflict between the centres covered by the fire test/assessment/certification evidence and the centres required by service providers which may be different. Often the services are installed before the walls are built and therefore it is inevitable that in some cases, the supports will not fall inside the scope of test/assessment/certification evidence provided by the installer/manufacture of the penetration seals.

As a fire safety organisation, it has to be the position of the ASFP that the fire performance of any installed seal can only be guaranteed if it is installed exactly as fire tested, assessed or certificated; and this includes the centres of supports for services. The centres provided by the manufacturer/installer of the penetration seal result from the fire testing methodology and are the only ones proven to work. If the seal is installed with centres outside the scope of application (centres and tolerances) provided by the evidence, there is a possibility that this will lead to localised distortion of the service which may cause displacement and thus premature failure of the seal.

“In tendering for package reference XYZ, the fire performance of the completed installation can only be guaranteed if the centres of supports for services running through the elements and associated penetration seals are the same as those covered by the fire test/assessment/certification evidence provided by the manufacturer/installer”.