

FireStopInspector™

Fire Barrier Management Services

For Immediate Release:

IFC Selects John P. Sinisi to Chair New Firestop Inspector Committee

Manasquan NJ (June 5, 2003) - Recognizing the emerging need for a better firestop inspection system, the International Firestop Council (IFC) has elected John P. Sinisi, president, FireStop Inspector LLC (www.firestopinspector.com), Manasquan, NJ chairman of the new Firestop Inspector Committee. Sinisi's committee will help firestop inspectors and the IFC strengthen the inspection process through standardized inspection procedures and document management and by educating construction trades on fire barrier repairs and sources of firestop violations. IFC is a not-for-profit organization promoting fire containment technology in building construction (www.firestop.org).

Firestop systems are designed to prevent the spread of flames, deadly gases and toxic smoke through openings that are frequently created for electrical, communications and plumbing, ventilation and grease ducts installations or upgrades in buildings. Breaches in fire-resistant walls and floor assemblies can also be created in floor/ceiling assemblies during reconstruction.

“Meeting firestop code requirements is like hitting a moving target, and a lot of people need to understand that,” Sinisi said. “Municipalities can change their building and fire codes, and re-inspections may be needed to ensure safety measures are not compromised. Buildings also change hands, and ownership changes generally lead to renovations. Because many construction tradespeople are unfamiliar with the highly detailed firestop codes, inspections are needed to verify that any holes drilled through smoke enclosures or fire resistance rated walls are completely filled with the proper firestopping material. In those cases, firestop systems will do their job of containing smoke and fire to give building occupants more time to escape and protect property.”

Sinisi notes that Underwriters Laboratories (UL) has more than 3,500 design solutions. The only way to find if any violations exist in a building is to physically follow all tradespeople and visually observe that a barrier is intact.

“Gaps and openings in fire barriers must be repaired with approved UL systems that are designed to restore the original fire rating,” Sinisi said. “As an industry, we must make sure that our inspections exceed ASTM International standards and comply with JCAHO (Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations), Current Building and Fire Codes and NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) Life Safety Code.”

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Containing migration of fire, smoke, toxic gas and CBR in your building saves property and life.

NATIONAL SERVICES CAPABILITY

“Currently,” he continued, “there is no documentation method. Our committee will need to develop procedures and standards for specific buildings, such as hotels and care centers, and for specific areas of buildings, such as mail rooms and mechanical rooms, which are considered at greater risk for an incident involving smoke, fire, toxic gas or CBR materials.”

In addition to developing an organized process for firestop inspections, Sinisi’s committee will look to attract independent firestop inspectors to the IFC.

“Inspector participation is critical to successfully educating inspectors and code officials on how to make buildings safer through proper fire stopping techniques,” said Amal Tamim, manager of codes and standards, Grace Construction Products and president of IFC. “This is our ultimate goal. Creating a focused committee just for inspectors is a natural extension of what IFC has been doing from the manufacturer’s point of view to bring officials up to speed on critical elements of fire stopping systems, building code requirements and fire testing standards, plus recommended inspection guidelines.”

FireStop Inspector is an independent firestop inspection firm. Firestop Inspector utilizes a patent pending Handheld Data Collection Solution, to provide national fire barrier management services. The system integrates digital photo recording, barcode identifier, and automated form technology to facilitate firestop inspections and compliance reporting. FireStop Inspector, 250 East Main St., Manasquan, NJ 08736 Tel: 732-528-0473 Fax: 732-528-6661 info@firestopinspector.com www.firestopinspector.com.

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Editors Note:

Release is available in Word and RTF formats along with a head shot image of Mr. Sinisi at <http://www.namc-hitech.com/fsi>

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