

Project Sequencing / Scheduling

The proper application and performance of Spray-Applied Fireproofing, also known as Spray-Applied Fire-Resistive Materials (SFRMs) are dependent upon many variables associated with project sequencing/scheduling.

Isolatek International, the world leader in passive fire protection, recognizes this industry concern and recommends the following scheduling practices which will result in a cost effective, efficient SFRM installation.

The coordination and scheduling of fire protection work with other trades on any project is a key factor in avoiding delays in job progress. **Clips, hangers, supports, sleeves and other attachments to the substrates to receive fire protection are to be placed by other trades prior to the application of SFRMs.** This is critical since the patching and/or repairs of SFRMs typically results from non-compliance with this practice. Reducing the need for SFRM patching following its installation helps minimize the effect on the overall project schedule.

The installation of ducts, piping, conduit or other suspended equipment shall not take place until the application of the SFRM is complete in that area. Mechanical equipment that is fastened prior to the SFRM installation can make the application extremely labor intensive and inefficient. The installation is hindered since the applicator cannot clearly spray to those substrates requiring SFRMs. Additionally, the mechanical equipment must be completely covered to avoid SFRM over-spray onto these surfaces.

SFRMs shall not be applied to steel floor decks prior to the completion of concrete work on that deck. The installation of SFRMs to floor decking before the completion of concrete work can result in unacceptable adhesion of the SFRM to the substrate or even delamination of the SFRM. If such conditions exist, the SFRM must be reapplied to the affected areas in order to maintain the hourly fire rating requirements. This re-installation often leads to valuable time lost in the construction schedule while also affecting the other trades to follow.

The application of SFRMs to the underside of roof deck shall not commence until the roofing is completely installed and tight, all penthouses are complete, all mechanical units have been placed, and after roof traffic has ceased. Unlike floor decking, roof decks are more susceptible to deflection caused by impact forces. These impact forces are typically the result of "Construction Roof Traffic" - the activity of walking, installing or working with equipment on the roof of a building. All too often, roof traffic compromises the adhesion of the SFRM resulting in "bridged" material and/or product delamination from the substrate. Please refer to "Isolutions - Construction Roof Traffic" for details. The SFRM must be reapplied to the areas affected by roof traffic, again resulting in a less efficient installation process.

Isolatek International strongly recommends following these key guidelines to provide the building team members and owners with an efficient, cost-effective SFRM installation. The coordination and scheduling of the SFRM application with other trades will help to avoid any delays to the project's development and completion. Additional guidelines and best practices can be found in the NFCA 100 - Standard Practice for the Application of Spray-Applied Fire Resistant Materials (SFRMs).

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