

Product Bulletin 7

FIRE DAMPER TESTING

The purpose of fire and smoke damper testing and reporting is to provide the building owner and manager with proof of compliance under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and building insurance conditions relative to The H&S of building occupants and the general public at large.

British Standard 9999:2017

British Standard 9999:2017 "Code of Practice for Fire Safety in the Design, Management & Use of Buildings" defines a Fire Damper as a "*mechanical device that is operated automatically or manually and is designed to prevent the passage of fire and which, together with its frame, is capable of meeting for a stated period of time the fire resistance criterion for integrity*".

BS 9999:2017 states '*any grille or opening through the enclosure for ventilation purposes should be protected by a fire damper*'

Fire dampers are located where ductwork passes through fire compartment walls and floors. They are typically held open by a 'fusible link' which BS 9999:2017 defines as a "*device that releases a component such as a fire damper or fire shutter at a set temperature*".

Healthcare Properties

Requirements of HTM 03-01

In Part B of Health Technical Memorandum 03-01 the following guidance is given for HTM 03-01 testing:

Section 1.3.1: *Regular tests, at intervals agreed with the local fire prevention officer, will need to be carried out in order to demonstrate the continuing efficiency of the fire detection and containment systems. These may be in addition to the inspections detailed above. Records of these tests should be kept.*

Section 4.1.3: *All fire dampers should be tested as part of the annual verification.*

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Damper Types and Examples of Current Testing and Reporting

Curtain fire dampers are constructed using a series of interlocking blades, which fold to the top and are held open by means of a thermal release mechanism. The mechanism may be activated electronically or by a mechanical spring at around 72°C.

Single and multi-blade fire dampers have one or more linked framed pivoting blades, released by a thermal release mechanism at around 72°C, again either by a mechanical spring or by means of external control.

Examples of testing methods and reporting (but not limited to) include: -

- An inventory of all dampers to be tested
- Drawings itemizing ductwork routes and damper locations
- Asset register to include damper location and ID number
- Inspection results including details of failed damper operation
- Digital photographic evidence of damper condition prior to and after testing procedures
- Explanation of failed operation and recommended corrective **com** or remedial action

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