

Glossary

Like most specialist industries, the fire protection industry has a range of terms, abbreviations and slang that are commonly used. We've put together a comprehensive glossary of the common ones you are likely to hear.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

A

Acoustic	The qualities of a room or building that determine how sound is transmitted in it, or reduced in it.
Active Fire Protection Systems	Active Fire Protection Systems are classified as those systems which seek to extinguish the fire through: Detecting the fire early and evacuating the building. Alerting emergency services at an early stage. Controlling the movement of smoke and fire. Suppress and/or starve the fire of(...)
Air Seal	Air Seal – quality installation used to achieve or maintain pressure or airflow within a compartment. This can be measured in pascals, litres area or volume.
Annual Inspection	Every year the owner of a building or premises must provide a statement certifying that all fire-safety measures can achieve their intended purpose.
AS4072.1	Sets out minimum requirements for construction, installation and application of fire resistance tests to fire stopping systems around service penetration and at control/ expansion joints.
Assets	Possessions; ie an entire building/structure or items within including equipment, furniture, machinery etc.
Australian Standards	AS1530 Part 4 - This Standard provides methods for determining the performance of external construction elements when exposed to radiant heat , burning embers and burning debris. The methods do not simulate engulfment by flames from the fire front or large burning items such as other burning(...)

B

BCA	Classification summary of buildings and structures. This is a uniform set of technical provisions for the design and construction of building/structure. Standards which all trades must meet to reach compliance . (Also see NCC)
Bi-annually	Occurs twice a year
Building Codes of Australia	Classification summary of buildings and structures. This is a uniform set of technical provisions for the design and construction of building/structure. Standards which all trades must meet to reach compliance. (Also see NCC)
Building Element	The type of material used in the construction of the building.
Bulkhead	A barrier between compartments.

C

C3.15	Protection of openings that penetrate fire rated elements.
Cast-In Collars	Fire Collars that are fixed to form work prior to the pouring of a concrete slab.
Certification	Certification – is a necessary requirement that any works carried out are compliant to AS1530 part 4 to ensure that the systems installed are tested and will work in the event of a fire to save lives and assets (buildings).
Compartmentation	Compartmentation - is a tool that is used in the vast majority of buildings, other than simple low rise developments. Compartmentation is referred to in many different ways: fire walls (and floors); fire separation; protected corridors / stairs etc. All these terms carry the same meaning.
Compliance	The fact of meeting rules or outlined standards.
Corresponds	Relates to.
Customized Heavy Duty Access Covers	Durable fire rated access points that can be easily removed.

E

Essential Services	Essential Services – Eg. Electricity / communication services, water supply services, Hydrant and sprinkler system services, fire alarm systems and services and fire and smoke doors are necessary to run and maintain a building or structure. They all require inspections for compliance and these(...)
--------------------	---

F

Fire Barriers	Fire Barriers – are a fire-resistant barrier used to prevent the spread of fire for a prescribed period.
Fire Batts	A dense, but light weight product in comparison to fire boards. Typically used for sealing penetrations .
Fire Boards	A product that is used to stop fire and typically protect structural steel and duct work. This product varies in weight, size and thickness dependent on which supplier it comes from. The thickness also effects the level of FRL for the asset it is protecting.
Fire Protective Sprays	Fire Protective Sprays - Because of its low density and good insulation properties exfoliated vermiculite is used in building boards. These boards are often used as a 'core' in fire doors, to build fire barriers , to encase or construct ductwork and to protect steel building elements from the(...)
Fire Rating	Means the ability of a building component to resist a fully developed fire, while still performing its function.
Fire Resistance Level	Fire Resistance Level (FRL) is defined in the Building Code of Australia (BCA) now National Construction Code (NCC) is the grading period in minutes for three criteria in accordance with AS1530.4 Structural adequacy – The time that a structure must be able to with stand during a fire.(...)
Fire Resistant Cladding	Fire Resistant Cladding – Used on structural steel, mechanical ductwork and dry walls can be achieved with several products eg 16mm fire check plaster and fire rated boards installed in accordance with its tested system to achieve compliance .
Fire Resistant Coating	Fire Resistant Coating – Often called fire retardants, or mistakenly called "fireproof" paints, Intumescent paints refer to that class of specially designed paints which swell and form a protective "char" as a result of extreme heat exposure - such as a fire - increasing in volume. This char(...)
Fire Retardant	A fire retardant is a substance that reduces flammability of fuels or delays their combustion.
Fire Stopping	Fire Stopping – Is a fire protection system made of various components used to seal openings, control joints in fire resistant walls, floors, or assemblies.
FRL	Fire Resistance Level (FRL) is defined in the Building Code of Australia (BCA) now National Construction Code (NCC) is the grading period in minutes for three criteria in accordance with AS1530.4 Structural adequacy – The time that a structure must be able to with stand during a fire.(...)

H

Hatch	A small opening in a floor, wall or roof allowing access from one area to another.
Hebel	Hebel is a strong, versatile, high performance building product made from Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (ACC).

I

Intumescent	Intumescent – A substance which will expand as a result of heat exposure (generally fire), increasing in volume whilst simultaneously decreasing in density. By swelling, the substance forms a char which seeks to encase the material it applied to, thus protecting it from damage. This char is a(...)
-------------	--

M

Mechanical Fixing	Is a term used to demonstrate quality installation and safety.
-------------------	--

N

National Construction Code	Formally known as the BCA , the NCC provides the minimum necessary requirements for safety, health, amenity and sustainability in the design and construction of new buildings (and new building work in existing buildings) throughout Australia. (Also see BCA)
NCC	Formally known as the BCA , the NCC provides the minimum necessary requirements for safety, health, amenity and sustainability in the design and construction of new buildings (and new building work in existing buildings) throughout Australia. (Also see BCA)
Non-combustible	Doesn't burn.

P

Passive Fire Industry	Is made up of sectors constructed that require passive fire protection. Examples that are part of the industry are; health, industrial, electrical, mechanical etc.
Passive Fire Protection Systems	Passive Fire Protection Systems are those solutions that seek to contain the fire by: Delaying the growth of the fire. Using fire rated partitions and doors to prevent the fire and smoke from moving from one compartment to another. Delaying the collapse of the building structure with fire(...)
Passive Fire Rating	Passive Fire Rating - Those Fire Rating solutions that seek to contain the fire by: Delaying the growth of the fire Using fire rated partitions and doors to prevent the fire and smoke from moving from one compartment to another Delaying the collapse of the building structure with fire rated(...)
Penetration schedule	Penetration schedule – Is a system which is used to log and document a schedule of works.

Penetrations	Penetrations – In fire stopping, a penetration is an opening, such as one created using a cast-in-place sleeve, in a wall or floor assembly required to have a fire resistance rating (FRL), for the purpose of accommodating the passage of a mechanical, electrical or structural penetrant. The(...)
--------------	---

R

Radiant Heat	Any product with a temperature of absolute zero emits energy (heat). This energy reacts with other objects and can cause them to reach a point of combustion.
Riser	Riser (aka Riser Shafts) - Unique fire compartments. Examples are:- Electrical, hydraulic, mechanical, plumbing and communications.

S

Shafts	Shafts (or Riser Shafts) - Unique fire compartments. Examples are:- Electrical, hydraulic, mechanical, plumbing and communications.
Smoke Barrier	Smoke Barrier – are a smoke/gas resistant barrier used to prevent the spread of smoke and/or gases.
Stipulated	Specified or demanded.

T

Thermal Conduction	Is the transfer of heat through all types of matter such as solids, gases and liquids. The rate of heat transfer is determined by the material conducting heat and the difference in temperature of the two products.
--------------------	---

W

Wet Trades	Building trades which use dry building materials that are mixed with water. For example; concrete, mortars, and plaster.
------------	--