

**CITY & COUNTY OF DENVER
COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
BUILDING PERMIT POLICY**

Subject: FIRESTOP SPECIAL INSPECTION AND CONTRACTOR LICENSURE

Approved: Eric Browning, Chief Building Official

Drafted by: Peetz, Shults, Trujillo, Pruet

Number: IBC 1704.2.1

Effective Date: 04/01/2024

Page: 1 of 6

Reference:

2022 Denver Building Code Administration Section 121 – Contractor Licenses or Registration; 2022 Denver Building Code Amended IBC Section 1704 and 1705 – Special Inspection

Definitions:

Firestopping - firestop, fire-resistant joint systems, and perimeter fire containment systems.

Scope:

The provisions of this policy define the education, training, and experience requirements for an individual to be recognized for a supervisor certificate and/or firestop special inspector certificate in Denver.

Policy:

This license will not be available until Summer of 2024.

I. Firestopping Installer Minimum Qualifications:

A Specialty Class D Supervisor Certificate and Specialty Class D License is required for the installation of firestopping in buildings subject to the special inspection requirements of 2021 IBC Section 1705.18 on or after September 1, 2024. A valid Supervisor Certificate is required for issuance and maintenance of a Class D License. This license will be valid for 3 years from date of issue.

The required experience and training for the individual applying for the supervisor certificate are:

1. Minimum Experience: Comply with one of the following (A, B, C, or D),

- A) Two-years' experience or 1,000 hours in building construction within the firestop industry conducting inspections under the direction of a supervisor holding a Denver *firestopping* supervisor certificate or an approved *firestopping* special inspector certificate.
- B) Two years or 1,000 hours experience in the firestop industry conducting quality control.
- C) Two years or 1,000 hours experience in the selection of and installation of firestop systems and/or fire-resistive joint systems.
- D) Hold license as a Colorado registered design professional with a minimum two years or 1,000 hours experience in the firestop industry.

2. Minimum Training: Within the past two years must, comply with one of the following (A or B)

- A) Attend at least two hours of educational training seminars directly related to *firestopping* conducted by at least four different organizations comprised of firestop

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Number: IBC 1704.2.1	Effective Date: 04/01/2024	Page: 2 of 6

manufacturers, firestop industry trade associations, Accredited CEU providers or a combination thereof.

- B) Attend a minimum eight-hour ICC or other accredited educational program with the explicit purpose of educating parties specifically in the firestop industry. This option will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis depending on the educational program submitted to the AHJ for consideration by the applicant.

II. Firestopping Special Inspector Minimum Qualifications:

The *special inspector* must be completely independent from the installer, contractor, manufacturer, or supplier of any *firestopping* material being inspected. A “qualified person” (as used in this policy) for a project may be either an installer or an inspector, but never both for the same project, nor the same person on different projects for the same contractor at the same time. Additionally, the *special inspector* must not be a competitor of the installer, contractor, manufacturer, or supplier of any material being inspected.

1. *Special inspectors* who perform the special inspections shall fulfill the qualification requirements associated with obtaining a Specialty Class D Firestop Installer Supervisor Certificate in Section I and, either 2 or 3 below when performing inspections on or after September 1, 2024.
2. Possess a current ICC *Firestopping Credential of Learning Achievement (CLA)* (<https://www.iccsafe.org/professional-development/cla/>)
3. Examination:
 - A) Firestop Industry Examination—Score a minimum of 80% on an examination containing subject matter directly related to the firestop industry and to inspections conducted under the scopes of ASTM Practices E2174 and E2393. Organizations and programs that provide firestop industry examinations include, but are not limited to, the following:
 1. IAS Certificate of Accreditation for Firestop Systems based on AC 291, Accreditation Criteria for Special Inspection Agencies.
 2. IFC Recommended Training and Education for Third-Party Firestop Inspectors program.
 3. Firestop installer programs such as the FM 4991 DRI program.
 4. UL Qualified Firestop Contractor Program.
 5. Equivalent alternative Firestop Industry Examinations as *approved* by the Agency.
4. Registered Design Professional in Responsible Charge, and Employees:

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Page: 3 of 6

Employees of the *registered design professional in responsible charge* and/or engineers or architects of involved in the design or specification of the project are permitted to act as *special inspectors* for the tested listed systems provided, they fulfill the examination and training requirements associated with obtaining a Specialty Class D Supervisor Certificate in Section I. (The registered design professional (engineer or architect) *in responsible charge* who seals and signs the constructions documents or specifications does not need to meet the Specialty Class D Supervisor Certificate criteria in Section I.)

III. Approved Special Inspection Agency (SIA) Qualification Criteria:

An approved SIA shall be objective, competent, and independent from the contractor responsible for the work being inspected. The SIA shall disclose to the *Building Official* and the *registered design professional in responsible charge* possible conflicts of interest so that impartiality can be confirmed.

1. The SIA must employ - at all times - a Special Inspections Manager to supervise the special inspection operations of the agency. The Special Inspections Manager must possess a Specialty Class D Supervisor Certificate as described in Section I above. The SIA is responsible for notifying the *Building Official* and Denver CPD's Building Inspections Manager within 10-business days with a list of projects detailing any changes in the designated Special Inspections Manager. Failure to do so may result in the immediate suspension or forfeiture of the SIA's approval.

The SIA, through its Special Inspections' Manager, is responsible for all the following:

- A) Hiring qualified *special inspectors*,
- B) Supervising the work of the *special inspectors*,
- C) Filing accurate and complete reports based upon actual inspection and testing results,
- D) In-house distribution and application of technical guidelines,
- E) Supervising and documenting an annual internal audit of in-house special inspector qualifications and in-house training programs that must be provided to the city within 5-business days upon request.
- F) Limit the performance of *firestopping* special inspection within structures and occupancies requiring *firestopping* special inspection to individuals who possess the minimum special inspector qualifications outlined in Section II above.

Alternative SIA approval Qualification Criteria:

1. An agency with current accreditation by the International Accreditation Service (IAS) as a SIA for the type of construction or operation requiring special inspection will qualify as an *approved* SIA when provided for verification to the Agency.
2. A SIA consisting of a self-employed individual possessing a Specialty Class D Supervisor Certificate for the installation of firestops, fire-resistant joint systems, and perimeter fire barrier systems is eligible provided s/he submits to the Agency a notarized conflict of interest statement signed by the individual with the wording in *Appendix A*.

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Effective Date: 04/01/2024

Page: 4 of 6

IV. Exception to third-party special inspection requirements for occupancies requiring special inspection by Section 2021 IBC Section 1705.18:

1. Interior tenant improvement projects meeting all the criteria below do not require a third-party firestop special inspector.
 - A) There is a total of ten or fewer penetrations throughout the entire scope of the project as defined on the construction permit.
 - B) The maximum nominal dimension/diameter of any one penetration opening is 6" or less.
 - C) The maximum aggregate area of all penetration openings through the assembly does not exceed 144 square inches.

Inspection of membrane and through penetration *firestopping* within these tenant spaces will be performed by a qualified City and County of Denver Building inspector.

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Number: IBC 1704.2.1	Effective Date: 04/01/2024	Page: 5 of 6

Appendix A – Self-Employed Individual SIA Conflict of Interest Statement

Under penalty of perjury and applicable law, I attest by my own name and signature below that I am not involved in any shared activities (including but not limited to resourcing, finances, contracts, marketing, branding, sales, commission, or any other incentive, such as the referral of new clients) that prohibits me from being impartial in the performance of my duties.

I am free from commercial, financial, or other pressures that will influence or compromise my impartiality.

I am not engaged in the manufacture, supply, installation, purchase, ownership, use, or maintenance of materials and systems used in firestop systems and/or fire-resistive joint systems.

I am completely independent of, and divested from, the installer, contractor, manufacturer, or supplier of any material used for firestop systems and/or fire-resistive joint systems.

I am not involved in, or employed by, a company involved in the production, supply, installation, or maintenance of any material used for firestop systems and/or fire-resistive joint systems.

(Individual Printed Name)

(Individual SIA Signature) (Date)

(Notary Printed Name) (Date)

(Notary Signature) (Commission Expires)

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HISTORIC Criteria – Acceptable until 1/1/2024.

Below are the criteria to be satisfied to be recognized as a firestop inspector in the City of Denver:

Provide documentation for at least ONE of the following requirements (A, B, C, or D):

- A. Have a minimum of two-years' experience in building construction within the firestop industry conducting inspections under the direction of an inspector; or
- B. Have a minimum of two years of experience in the firestop industry conducting quality control; or
- C. Have a minimum four years of full-time (or at least 6160 hours) experience in the selection or installation, or both, of firestop systems or fire-resistive joint systems, or both; or
- D. Hold license as a registered design professional (Colorado Registered Architect or Engineer) with experience in the firestop industry.

AND, meet BOTH of the requirements defined below (1 and 2):

1. *Firestop Industry Examination*—Score a minimum of 80% on an examination (as defined below) containing subject matter directly related to the firestop industry and to inspections conducted under the scopes of ASTM Practices E2174 and E2393. These include: IAS Certificate of Accreditation based on AC 291, Accreditation Criteria for Special Inspection Agencies; IFC Recommended Training and Education for Third-Party Firestop Inspectors program; and firestop installer programs including the FM 4991 DRI program and UL Qualified Firestop Contractor Program.
2. *Training*—Perform ONE of two options below:
 - a. Attend at least two hours of educational training seminars directly related to firestop systems or fire resistive joint systems, or both, conducted by at least four different organizations; either (a) manufacturers of firestop industry products or (b) firestop industry trade associations, or a combination of both (a) and (b).
 - b. Attend a 6-hour educational program that is acceptable to the City and County of Denver and planned with the explicit purpose of educating parties specifically interested in the firestop industry. This option will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis depending on the educational program submitted for consideration by the applicant.

In addition, one of the following must be met in addition to the requirements above:

The Qualified firestop special inspector must be or must be employed by a company

1. Having the Intertek IQP Qualified Firestop Special Inspector designation, or
2. Having the IAS Accredited Firestop Inspection Firm accreditation.

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