

The logo for Listers, featuring the word "Listers" in a blue, sans-serif font inside a white rounded rectangle with a blue border.

Meet Your Maker



Firestop manufacture a range of fire protection and emergency products under the 4 Fire Doors brand for Listers. We talk to Firestop's MD Keith Sutcliffe to find out a little more about the Company, their range of intumescent fire seals and the key things you need to know if buying fire protection products in 2011.

Keith, can you tell us a little about Firestop please – how long have you been established and where are you based?

We are based down in Dorchester which is the county town of sunny Dorset. This year sees us celebrating the company's 20th anniversary!

What Products do you supply to Listers customers?

We supply a variety of products including both pre-packed and bulk intumescent fire and smoke seals (4 Firedoor Brand), letter plates, fire grilles and covers, pipe collars, sealant, hinges, locks and levers. We also supply child finger protection products for doors and of course our brand new range of acoustic door seals.

Why do we use intumescent products?

The prime reason for using intumescent products in today's construction industry is to stop the spread of fire and allow the occupants of a building a safe passage of escape. Most buildings incorporate walls and floors which act to compartmentalise the structure. These restrict the uncontrolled spread of a fully developed fire and protect the building structure from collapse – also preventing the spread to adjacent buildings.

What type of intumescent do you use?

Our seals are manufactured using intercollated graphite, a high performance material with multi-directional expansion up to 25 X its original size. It differs from ordinary graphite in having water molecules sandwiched between the layers. During a fire the water molecules turn to steam causing the graphite to exfoliate which can in turn exert up to 2 bar of pressure depending on the application and loading of the product.

As your Fire Seals use Intercollated Graphite what are their advantages over other types of Intumescent seals?

They are not affected by moisture or by common chemicals. They provide rapid multi-directional expansion and are mineral based so safe to handle.

What Standards are the Fire Seals tested to?

Listers fire seals have been successfully tested to all the following standards: BS-EN 1634; BS476 Part 22:1987; BS476 Part 23 Section 6:1987. Acoustics are tested to BSEN ISO 140-3 1995 approved DOC E <30 dBRw. The seals are tested to work in a full range of different door formats

which include: single leaf single swing, single leaf double swing, double leaf single swing, double leaf double swing and latched and unlatched.

What should customers be aware of when buying fire seal?

It is very important to fit the correct intumescent seal into a door or doorset otherwise the door may fail in the event of a fire. Please follow this simple guide when selecting intumescent seals.

1) Check the door manufacturer's instructions to establish the size of seal the door was originally tested with. If the door has been manufactured under the BWF CERTIFIRE scheme the intumescent seal must be CERTIFIRE approved. All firestop intumescent seals are CERTIFIRE approved. Typically all new FD30 doors will need a 15 X 4MM seal but always check the manufacturers' instructions.

2) Establish if a smoke seal is required. If you are not sure check the door schedule or architects plan, doors will typically be shown as FD30 for a 30 minute fire door that requires plain fire seals or FD30S on a door requiring both fire and smoke seals. The same applies for a 60 minute doors i.e. FD60 or FD60S door.

3) Select the colour of seal required. Typically white or brown are most commonly specified although we also have Platinum available, a pearlescent silver seal to match contemporary ironmongery finishes such as stainless steel or chrome.

Is there any legislation that customers should be aware of?

The most important legislative change under consideration is for all doorsets to be CE marked, however the final details are still to be decided. With an ever growing demand for acoustically rated doors and doorsets we recommend that all clients get to grips with Approved Document E.

Are you working on any new product developments at the moment?

We have just bought out a fantastic range of acoustic door seals enabling companies to comply with Approved Document E (see above) and a new heavy duty finger protector.

Call our friendly sales team on 01902 877780 for more information on the Listers Fire Protection range