



Understanding Dynamic head of Wall Fire Stop Joints **(1.0 hours, 1.0-AIA HSW)**



When installing a firewall (for example a UL U419 system) the wall has been tested for a certain hourly rating. This tested system accounts for a static wall environment, with NO movement at the floor/roof above. Typically, our walls have a deflection requirement at the top, or Head of Wall. Since our floors/roof will move up and down, depending on many factors, the joint at the head of the wall is no longer static; it is dynamic and will cycle up and down many times during its life. This is why we need a fire joint system at the head of wall that has been tested for this type of movement in order not to compromise the fire wall under building movement stress. This presentation will discuss all aspects of a dynamic head-of-wall fire stopping joint and explain how to calculate, choose, and specify the correct head-of-wall fire stopping tested assembly(s) and further examine and understand the documentation that comes with a tested fire joint system or an engineering judgment.

Learning Objectives:

- 1. Determine which tested assemblies are needed for each partition type based on location in the building, how to read and understand the information provided in the tested assembly sheet information, and be able to identify in the field if the installation is correct and in compliance with the tested assembly submitted.*
- 2. Understand what an Engineering Judgment is, when and why it is needed, and how to read the information in the Engineering Judgment report.*
- 3. Understand why a head-of-wall fire joint assembly is needed, what makes it different than a typical fire wall partition, understand the different fire stopping materials, understand the differences between systems, and choosing the correct system for each condition.*
- 4. Understand how to determine and calculate the gap needed at the head-of-wall and practically choose the tested systems based on that information.*