



Firestopping and fire joint installers might need to be qualified under FM or UL standards and testing. **Review the specification sections 078413, 078443 & 078453** to confirm compliance during bidding. FM and UL requirement is a testing and certification standard that typically only specialized installers obtain. This specification requirement might affect your bid.

Also most of our construction types will require a Special Inspection third-party reviewer for all firestopping and fire joint installations. Talk to your owner to set up these inspections as soon as possible (during priority wall installations) so we do not miss a required inspection. **Corey S. Zussman, AIA, NCARB - QA/QC Vice President**

## **Regarding installation - This is what we should look for in the specifications:**

### 1.5 QUALITY ASSURANCE

- A. Installer Qualifications: A firm that has been approved by FM Approvals according to FM Approvals 4991, "Approval of Firestop Contractors," or been evaluated by UL and found to comply with UL's "Qualified Firestop Contractor Program Requirements."

**If this passage is found in either Section 078413, 078443 or 078446, it is likely that the Interior Framing contractor and/or the MEP—FP trades are unable to perform this work without a specialized 3rd party firestopping contractor.**

## **Regarding Special Inspection Requirements per Building Codes:**

**IBC 2012-current,  
Requires firestopping & fire  
joints Special Inspections for  
Risk Category III + IV**

**IBC 2021 added Group R w/  
250+ occupants**

**Inspection shall be in  
accordance of ASTM E2174  
& E2393**

**Set up a fire stopping  
preinstall meeting as  
soon as possible to  
review requirements  
and systems.**

**Live Load Deflection  
will be needed for fire  
Head of Wall design.**

**Refer to previously issued  
Quality Bulletins found on the  
Quality Website or ShareFile**

**Risk  
Category  
III**

Buildings and other structures that represent a substantial hazard to human life in the event of failure, including but not limited to:

- Buildings and other structures whose primary occupancy is public assembly with an occupant load greater than 300.
- Buildings and other structures containing elementary school, secondary school or day care facilities with an occupant load greater than 250.
- Buildings and other structures containing adult education facilities, such as colleges and universities, with an occupant load greater than 500.
- Group I-2 occupancies with an occupant load of 50 or more resident care recipients but not having surgery or emergency treatment facilities.
- Group I-3 occupancies.
- Any other occupancy with an occupant load greater than 5000<sup>a</sup>
- Power-generating stations, water treatment facilities for potable water, waste water treatment facilities and other public utility facilities not included in Risk Category IV.
- Buildings and other structures not included in Risk Category IV containing quantities of toxic or explosive materials that:  
Exceed maximum allowable quantities per control area as given in Table 307.1(1) or 307.1 (2) or per outdoor control area in accordance with the *International Fire Code*, and  
Are sufficient to pose a threat to the public if released<sup>b</sup>

**Risk  
Category  
IV**

Buildings and other structures designated as essential facilities, including but not limited to:

- Group I-2 occupancies having surgery or emergency treatment facilities.
- Fire, rescue, ambulance and police stations and emergency vehicle garages.
- Designated earthquake, hurricane or other emergency shelters.
- Designated emergency preparedness, communications and operations centers and other facilities required for emergency response
- Power generating stations and other public utility facilities required as emergency back up facilities for Risk Category IV structures
- Buildings and other structures containing quantities of highly toxic materials that:  
Exceed maximum allowable quantities per control area given in Table 307.1(2) or per outdoor control area in accordance with the *International Fire Code*  
Are sufficient to pose a threat to the public if released<sup>b</sup>
- Aviation control towers, air traffic control centers and emergency aircraft hangars.
- Buildings and other structures having critical national defense functions
- Water storage facilities and pump structures required to maintain water pressure for fire suppression

## **ASTM E 2174-24 (Fire Stopping):**

If witnessing the installation, a **minimum of 10%** of each type of system installed.

If destructive, a minimum **2% of system installed**, but not less than one of each type per floor or floor area.  
(Area = 10,000 SF)

## **ASTM E 2393-24 (Joints + Perimeter):**

If witnessing the installation, a **minimum of 5%** of total linear feet of each system type installed .

If destructive, a minimum **one sampling of system installed** per 500 linear feet.

**If inspection fails, re-inspect failed location + one additional location.**

**If non-compliance occurs on 10% or more, the inspection stops, installer shall review and self-inspect, then notify the Team when complete and inspection is to start over.**