

## Spray-Applied Fire Resistive Materials (SFRMs)

**The establishment of a new product classification for sprayed fire protection materials became effective January 2, 1996. This involved a revision to two UL product classifications.**

***As of January 2, 1996 UL withdrew both the “Cementitious Mixtures” and “Fiber, Sprayed” product classifications and created a new single classification called “Spray-Applied Fire Resistive Material”.***

This change was referenced for the first time on page 9 of the 1996 UL Fire Resistance Directory Volume 1. In the subsequent printing of their next directory, the term “Spray-Applied Fire Resistive Material” replaced all references to Cementitious Mixtures and Sprayed Fiber in all UL designs.

There are several reasons for the change, the most notable being the adaptation of this terminology by organizations such as The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), the Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industries – International (AWCI) as well as several model building code organizations in place at the time such as ICBO (Uniform Building Code), Building Officials and Code Administrators, International Inc. (BOCA). Also a similar category was being used in one of the most prominent specification guideline documents - AIA MasterSpec<sup>®</sup>. On July 2, 1996 ULC also followed this format and incorporated the “Spray-Applied Fire Resistive Material” classification.

The second reason was there had been a past misunderstanding of what the terms “cementitious” and “sprayed fiber” actually represent. The term “cementitious” often conveyed the belief that the material contains cement, when in fact, most “cementitious” materials do not. Ironically, most of the materials that had been included in the “Sprayed Fiber” category, actually were the materials which contain cement as the binding ingredient. Due to the confusion caused by these misapplied terms, UL included definitions of “cementitious” and “sprayed fiber” within the directory. These terms define the manner in which the material is mixed, conveyed and applied and not the composition, hardness or physical performance characteristics of the material.

As a manufacturer and provider of both types of fire protection materials, it is Isolatek International’s position that product performance and physical characteristics, and not the application method, be used to identify Spray-Applied Fire Resistive Materials (SFRMs). Attached please find a copy of page 9 of the 1996 UL Directory Volume 1 and the UL letter dated February 6, 1996, both referencing this change in product classification.

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