

SHORT FORM

Intumescent Fireproofing, also known as Intumescent Fire Resistive Materials (IFRMs), is designed to provide hourly fire resistance ratings to the structural steel framework of a building. Routine inspection of IFRMs ensures that the product will be in-place for the design life of the structure and will perform in actual building fire conditions.

IFRMs are typically specified and installed in areas where structural steel columns and beams will be exposed to view and where high amounts of foot traffic and contact are prevalent, due to their ability to resist damage, impact and abrasion. Severe impacts to IFRMs caused by the operation of heavy equipment, transportation of goods, etc. may damage the IFRM and if so, will require inspection and remediation in those areas.

The procedures outlined below are intended as a guide for the inspection of IFRMs while conducting your periodic maintenance program.

1. Identify all areas throughout the structure that are subjected to severe impact. In addition, identify all areas that are susceptible to periodic or regular maintenance traffic and periodic or regular public traffic.
2. Visually inspect the aforementioned areas and note all IFRM deficiencies such as material that has been damaged.
3. Inspect surrounding IFRM near the damaged areas to ensure the required thicknesses are maintained.
4. Identify the type of IFRM utilized to protect the structural steel framework; i.e. beams and columns. The type of IFRM can usually be determined by reviewing construction documents or by contacting IFRM Manufacturers.
5. Obtain instructions from the applicable IFRM Manufacturer detailing the repair procedures.
6. Secure a sufficient quantity of IFRM from the applicable Manufacturer or contact the Manufacturer for names of qualified installers of the IFRM type. Repair of the existing IFRM shall be performed in accordance with the Manufacturer's published installation instructions.

The publication, "*Technical Manual 12-B Third Edition-Standard Practice for the Testing and Inspection of Field Applied Thin-Film Fire Resistive Materials; an Annotated Guide*", developed by The Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industries (AWCI) shall be consulted for specific information on thickness testing of IFRMs. An additional reference is ASTM E2924 - "*Standard Practice for Intumescent Coatings*".

It is important to note that some IFRMs require a finish coat over the surface of IFRMs approved for interior use. IFRMs that are approved for the protection of exterior structural steel generally require a multi-component finish coat system. The finish coat(s) must also be inspected and maintained in accordance with the procedures outlined above.

Additionally, IFRMs begin to react when exposed to temperatures ranging from approximately 149°C to 205°C (300°F to 400°F) degrees Fahrenheit. Caution should be exercised when performing work near IFRMs to prevent activation of the IFRM.

Isolatek International recommends that Commercial Building Owners/Managers develop and implement a comprehensive plan detailing a **Periodic Inspection and Maintenance Program for IFRMs**. Should you have further questions pertaining to this matter, please contact the Isolatek International Technical Service Department at +1 973.347.1200, extension 269.



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