



# Standard Practice for Assessing and Qualifying Candidates as Inspectors of Firestop Systems and Fire-Resistive Joint Systems<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E3038; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This Practice is intended to assist an authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) or authorizing authority (AA), or both, in establishing minimum qualifications for candidates who desire to conduct inspections in compliance with Practices E2174 and E2393.

NOTE 1—Authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) is defined in Practices E2174 and E2393.

NOTE 2—Authorizing authority (AA) is defined in Practices E2174 and E2393. Examples of the AA include, but are not limited to, the responsible architect, engineer, building owner, or their representative.

1.2 This Practice makes available a procedure for a candidate to provide evidence to the AHJ or AA, or both, of their specialized knowledge and technical competence related to the firestop industry.

1.3 This Practice determines the technical proficiency of a candidate based upon a minimum amount of education, experience, and knowledge possessed, which is needed to ensure competence to conduct inspections in compliance with Practices E2174 and E2393.

1.4 The purpose of this Practice is to allow the AHJ or AA, or both, to assess the ability of the candidate to comprehend and use inspection documents to conduct inspections in compliance with Practices E2174 and E2393.

NOTE 3—Inspection document is defined in Practices E2174 and E2393. The firestop submittal, when approved for use, should have sufficient details, including, but not limited to, the firestop manufacturer's product data, a design listing of the tested firestop, and when required a judgment (Alternative Means and Methods). The judgment is commonly referred to as an "Engineering Judgment" in the firestop industry. These judgments are not always issued by an engineer or a registered design professional.

1.5 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

<sup>1</sup> This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E06 on Performance of Buildings and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E06.21 on Serviceability.

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1.6 *The text of this standard references notes and footnotes that provide explanatory material. These notes and footnotes (excluding those in tables and figures) shall not be considered as requirements of the standard.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>2</sup>

E176 Terminology of Fire Standards

E631 Terminology of Building Constructions

E699 Specification for Agencies Involved in Testing, Quality Assurance, and Evaluating of Manufactured Building Components

E814 Test Method for Fire Tests of Penetration Firestop Systems

E1966 Test Method for Fire-Resistive Joint Systems

E2032 Guide for Extension of Data From Fire Resistance Tests Conducted in Accordance with ASTM E 119

E2174 Practice for On-Site Inspection of Installed Firestops

E2307 Test Method for Determining Fire Resistance of Perimeter Fire Barriers Using Intermediate-Scale, Multi-story Test Apparatus

E2393 Practice for On-Site Inspection of Installed Fire Resistive Joint Systems and Perimeter Fire Barriers

E2750 Guide for Extension of Data from Penetration Firestop System Tests Conducted in Accordance with ASTM

E2837 Test Method for Determining the Fire Resistance of Continuity Head-of-Wall Joint Systems Installed Between Rated Wall Assemblies and Nonrated Horizontal Assemblies

### 2.2 ISO Standards:<sup>3</sup>

ISO/IEC 17020 Conformity assessment—Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection

<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

<sup>3</sup> Available from International Organization for Standardization (ISO), ISO Central Secretariat, BIBC II, Chemin de Blandonnet 8, CP 401, 1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland, <http://www.iso.org>.

[ISO/IEC 17065 Conformity assessment—Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services](#)

[ISO 10295-1 Fire tests for building elements and components—Fire testing of service installations—Part 1: Penetration seals](#)

[ISO 10295-2 Fire tests for building elements and components—Fire testing of service installations—Part 2: Linear joint \(gap\) seals](#)

[ISO/DTR 12470-1 Fire-resistance tests—Guidance on the application and extension of results—Part 1: Loadbearing elements and vertical and horizontal separating elements](#)

2.3 *UL Standards:*<sup>4</sup>

[UL 1479 Standard for Fire Tests of Penetration Firestops](#)

[UL 2079 Standard for Tests for Fire Resistance of Building Joint Systems](#)

2.4 *Other Documents:*

[FCIA Firestop Manual of Practice](#)<sup>5</sup>

[FM 4991 Approval Standard for Firestop Contractors Class Number 4991](#)<sup>6</sup>

[IAS Accreditation Criteria for Special Inspection Agencies \(AC 291\)](#)<sup>7</sup>

[IFC](#)<sup>8</sup> [Firestop Inspection Manual](#)<sup>9</sup>

[IFC Guidelines for Engineering Judgments](#)<sup>10</sup>

[International Building Code](#)<sup>11</sup>

### 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Terms defined in Terminology [E631](#), Terminology [E176](#), and Practice [E699](#) will prevail for terms not defined in this Practice. Terminology [E631](#) definitions shall apply when there is a conflict between Terminology [E176](#), Practice [E699](#), and Terminology [E631](#) definitions.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *candidate, n*—the individual or company seeking the designation and recognition as a firestop industry inspector.

3.2.2 *firestop industry, n*—the field of work related to firestop systems and fire-resistive joint systems.

3.2.2.1 *Discussion*—Fire-resistive joint systems are well known as described in Test Method [E1966](#). However, Test Methods [E2307](#) and [E2837](#) also address specific types of fire-resistive joint systems called perimeter joint protections (also known as perimeter fire barriers), and continuity head-of-wall joint systems, respectively.

3.2.3 *firestop industry inspector, n*—the individual or company possessing the credentials set forth in this Practice, and

<sup>4</sup> Available from Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Corporate Progress, 333 Pfingsten Rd., Northbrook, IL 60062, <http://www.ul.com>.

<sup>5</sup> Available from Firestop Contractors International Association, 4415 W. Harrison Street, Suite 436, Hillside, IL 60162, <http://www.fcia.org/articles/mop.htm>.

<sup>6</sup> Available from FM Global, 270 Central Ave., Johnston, RI 02919-4949, <http://www.fmapprovals.com/approval-standards>.

<sup>7</sup> Available from International Accreditation Services, 3060 Saturn Street, Suite 100, Brea, CA, 92821-1732, [http://www.iasonline.org/Accreditation\\_Criteria](http://www.iasonline.org/Accreditation_Criteria).

<sup>8</sup> International Firestop Council, 2660 S. Utica Ave., Tulsa, OK 74114

<sup>9</sup> Available from <http://www.firestop.org/inspection-guidelines.html>.

<sup>10</sup> Available from <http://www.firestop.org/engineering-judgment-guidelines.html>.

<sup>11</sup> International Building Code is a registered trademark of and available from International Code Council (ICC), Inc., 500 New Jersey Ave., NW, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20001-2070, <http://www.iccsafe.org>.

who is authorized by the AHJ or AA, or both, to conduct an inspection under Practices [E2174](#) and [E2393](#), or both.

### 4. Summary of Practice

4.1 This Practice sets forth the minimum qualifications required to be eligible as a candidate to conduct inspections under Practices [E2174](#) and [E2393](#).

4.2 This Practice sets forth the information that needs to be documented by the candidate and a procedure to submit that information directly or indirectly to the AHJ or AA, or both.

### 5. Significance and Use

5.1 This Practice is intended to provide a means for the AHJ or AA, or both, to verify evidence of a candidate's experience, knowledge, and qualifications.

5.2 This Practice is not intended to set forth individual credentials for an AHJ or AA, or both.

5.3 This Practice is not intended to establish any performance criteria of firestop systems or fire-resistive joint systems.

NOTE 4—The performance criteria of a firestop system or fire-resistive joint system is found in many national and international test methods. Some of these methods include, but are not limited to, Test Method [E814](#), [UL 1479](#), [ISO 10295-1](#), Test Method [E1966](#), [UL 2079](#), [ISO 10295-2](#), Test Method [E2307](#), Test Method [E2837](#), etc.

### 6. Procedure

6.1 The candidate shall be acceptable to the AHJ or AA, or both. The candidate shall meet at least one requirement in [6.2](#), Prerequisites, and all of the requirements contained in [6.3](#), Inspector Qualifications.

6.2 *Prerequisites*—The candidate shall meet and provide documentation for at least one of the following requirements, which is acceptable to the AHJ or AA, or both:

6.2.1 Have a minimum of two-years' experience in building construction within the firestop industry conducting inspections under the direction of an inspector; or

6.2.2 Have a minimum of two years of experience in the firestop industry conducting quality control; or

NOTE 5—Some methods used to assess quality control entities and systems include, but are not limited to: Practice [E699](#) that provides a means for evaluating agencies conducting quality control; [ISO/IEC 17065](#) that affords a method to accredit organizations that oversee quality control processes; [ISO/IEC 17020](#) used to establish bodies performing inspection, etc.

6.2.3 Have a minimum four years of full-time (or at least 6160 h) experience in the selection or installation, or both, of firestop systems or fire-resistive joint systems, or both; or

NOTE 6—"Full-time" is considered "working the full number of hours considered normal or standard."<sup>12</sup> One can reasonably estimate that there are ≈250 working days per year.<sup>13</sup> The number of working days less a maximum of 30 days for allotted "days off," which is commonly referred to as vacation and sick time, provides 220 working days per year. A typical

<sup>12</sup> See <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/full-time>.

<sup>13</sup> See [http://www.workingdays.us/workingdays\\_holidays\\_2016.htm](http://www.workingdays.us/workingdays_holidays_2016.htm).

work day varies for men and women but using seven hours a work day is conservative.<sup>14</sup>

NOTE 7—Experience can be documented in many ways. These methods are just a few examples. One way to document experience is by a letter from an employer, past or present. Another way to document experience is by letters from an organization(s) that engaged the services of the candidate reporting the time spent performing the selection or installation, or both, of firestop systems or fire-resistive joint systems, or both. One more way to document experience is a collection of project records.

6.2.4 Hold license as a registered design professional with experience in the firestop industry.

NOTE 8—Typically, a registered design professional is an individual who is registered or licensed to practice their respective design profession as defined by the statutory requirements of their country's professional registration laws required for construction undertakings within certain jurisdictions.

6.3 *Firestop Industry Inspector Qualifications*—The candidate qualified under this Practice shall meet all of the following requirements:

6.3.1 *Firestop Industry Examination*—Score a minimum of 80 % on an examination, which is acceptable to the AHJ or AA, or both, and contains subject matter directly related to the firestop industry and to inspections conducted under the scopes of Practices E2174 and E2393.

NOTE 9—Examinations related to the firestop industry are offered by many independent third-party national and international organizations. Some of these organizations and programs that contain firestop industry examinations include, but are not limited to, the following: IAS Certificate of Accreditation<sup>15</sup> based on AC 291, Accreditation Criteria for Special Inspection Agencies; IFC Recommended Training and Education for Third-Party Firestop Inspectors program;<sup>16</sup> and firestop installer programs such as the FM 4991 DRI program;<sup>17</sup> and UL Qualified Firestop Contractor Program;<sup>18</sup> etc. Sources of knowledge and preparation for such firestop industry examinations are essential. Some of these sources that contain such firestop industry information include, but are not limited to, the Guide E2032, Guide E2750, International Building Code, ISO/DTR 12470-1, FCIA Firestop Manual of Practice, IFC Firestop Inspection Manual, and IFC Guidelines for Engineering Judgments, etc.

6.3.2 *Training*—Perform one of two options.

6.3.2.1 *Option 1*—Attend at least two hours of educational training seminars directly related to firestop systems or fire-resistive joint systems, or both, conducted by at least four different organizations; either (a) manufacturers of firestop industry products or (b) firestop industry trade associations, or a combination of both (a) and (b).

6.3.2.2 *Option 2*—Attend a 6-h educational program that is acceptable to the AHJ or AA, or both, and planned with the explicit purpose of educating parties specifically interested in the firestop industry.

## 7. Conflicts of Interest

7.1 The candidate shall be able to assure compliance with the following:

<sup>14</sup> See <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/atus.nr0.htm>.

<sup>15</sup> Confirm that the Scope of Accreditation on Certificate of Accreditation includes firestop systems (Test Method E814), fire-resistive joint systems (Test Method E1966), perimeter joint protections (Test Method E2307), and continuity head-of-wall joint systems (Test Method E2837).

<sup>16</sup> See <http://www.firestop.org/inspection.html>.

<sup>17</sup> See <http://www.fmapprovals.com>.

<sup>18</sup> See <http://www.ul.com/marks/ul-listing-and-classification-marks/promotion-and-advertising-guidelines/qualified-firestop-contractor-program-marking-general-and-specific-guidelines>.

7.1.1 The candidate shall be completely independent and divested from the installer, contractor, manufacturer, or supplier of any material being inspected.

7.1.2 The candidate shall not be a competitor of the installer, contractor, manufacturer, or supplier of any material being inspected.

7.1.3 The firm which employs the candidate shall be completely independent and divested from the installer, contractor, manufacturer, or supplier of any material being inspected.

NOTE 10—Some organizations, operating within government controlled facilities, are regulated and overseen by a national government's agencies, for example, United States Department of Defense (DOD), United States Department of Energy (DOE), and United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), etc. These organizations may have both inspections controlled by an internal quality assurance department and installations performed by the contracting department within the same organization, which is regulated by one or more national government agencies. The AHJ is the national government. Provided that the government regulates the entire organization (for example, installation and inspection), 7.1.3 is not intended to supersede these types of governmental programs and regulations, which establish independence from internal organizational burdens and self-sufficiency from monetary incentives. A notarized sworn affidavit by the organization that the operations are regulated and overseen by a national government's agency can address 7.1.3.

7.1.4 The firm which employs the candidate shall not be a competitor of the installer, contractor, manufacturer, or supplier of any material being inspected.

NOTE 11—The following is just one example of an individual's affidavit that would satisfy Section 7, Conflicts of Interest: "I state under penalty of applicable law that I am not involved in any shared activities (for example, resources, finances, contracts, marketing branding, sales commission or any other inducement, such as the referral of new clients) that prohibits me from being impartial. Further, I am also free from commercial, financial, or other pressures that will influence or compromise my impartiality. In addition, I will maintain in confidence any communications and documents that are part of the project and the inspection reports, all of which will be considered confidential information. As proof of this commitment, I will execute an enforceable and legally binding agreement to this effect. If I am compelled by law or required by contractual commitments to release confidential information, the AHJ or AA, or both, shall be notified of the information released, unless law or contractual commitments prohibit that notification. I am not engaged in the manufacture, supply, installation, purchase, ownership, use, or maintenance of materials and systems used in firestop systems or fire-resistive joint systems, or both. Also, I am completely independent of, and divested from, the installer, contractor, manufacturer or supplier of any material used for firestop systems or fire-resistive joint systems, or both. For a period of at least 2 years, I have not been involved in, or been employed by, a company involved in the production, supply, installation, or maintenance of any material used for firestop systems or fire-resistive joint systems, or both."

## 8. Documentation Submittal

8.1 The candidate shall submit all documentation required by this Practice for verification (1) directly to the AHJ or AA, or both; or (2) to an individual or organization approved by the AHJ or AA, or both.

8.2 The Documentation Submittal shall at least contain the following:

8.2.1 Evidence of compliance with 6.2, Prerequisites,

8.2.2 Evidence of compliance with 6.3, Inspector Qualifications, and

8.2.3 Evidence of compliance with Section 7, Conflicts of Interest.

NOTE 12—Though not a requirement of this Practice, self-certification is normally a legally binding act upon the document's author. Typically these types of self-certification documents in 8.2 are notarized sworn affidavits rather than just letters.

8.3 Documentation Submittals shall be completed at least once for each different AHJ or AA, or both.

8.4 Thereafter, the frequency of Documentation Submittals shall be determined by the AHJ or AA, or both, for verification and certification to compliance with the provisions of the Practice.

8.4.1 Approval by an AHJ or AA, or both, does not constitute approval for another AHJ or AA, or both.

8.4.2 Approval for one project does not necessarily constitute approval for another project.

## 9. Evidence of Compliance

9.1 After Section 8, Documentation Submittal, is received, reviewed, and verified by either (1) or (2) in 8.1, a letter or other evidence stating compliance with this Practice shall be provided to the candidate, who then will be considered a firestop industry inspector, and to the AHJ or AA, or both, when required.

NOTE 13—Examples of “other evidence” include, but are not limited to, a certification card, a certificate, a published register or list of inspectors

qualified under this Practice, etc.

9.2 The firestop industry inspector shall adhere to the following requirements to maintain compliance with this Practice:

9.2.1 Any provisions or requirements, or both, set forth directly by the AHJ or AA, or both.

9.2.2 Any provisions or requirements, or both, set forth by the individual or organization approved by the AHJ or AA, or both.

NOTE 14—An example of a provision set forth in 9.2.1 or 9.2.2 would be maintaining some continuing education (CE). CE hours and continuing education units (CEU, also known as CEC—continuing education credits) are measures used in continuing education programs. Another example of a provision set forth in 9.2.1 or 9.2.2 would be a company training program sanctioned by a manufacturer of firestop industry materials; a certification body that certifies firestop industry materials; a fire test laboratory that tests firestop industry materials and documents their installation process or installs these materials; or a firestop industry trade association. An example of a requirement set forth in 9.2.1 or 9.2.2 would be to maintain at least 6 h of CE or training every year, which are directly related to the firestop industry, from any provider that is acceptable to the AHJ or AA, or both.

## 10. Keywords

10.1 firestop; fire-resistive; fire barrier; inspection; inspector; joint; perimeter joint

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