

BRE Global Assessment Report

An assessment of the fire performance of a ceiling access hatch

Prepared for: Fire Proofing Services Limited

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BRE Global Ltd
Watford, Herts
WD25 9XX

Customer Services 0333 321 8811

From outside the UK:
T + 44 (0) 1923 664000
F + 44 (0) 1923 664010
E enquiries@bregroup.com
www.bregroup.com

Prepared for:
Fire Proofing Services Limited
Evolution House
Aston Road
Nuneaton
CV11 5EL



Prepared by

Name	Louise Popkin
Position	Senior Consultant
Date	22 October 2023
Signature	

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L Popkin'.

Authorised by

Name	Tony Baker
Position	Head of Technical Standards and Delivery - Passive
Date	22 October 2023
Signature	

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Baker'.

Date of original report	30 November 2010
Date of this reissue	22 October 2023
Date of next review	22 October 2028

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1 Introduction

A fire resistance test has been carried out on an access hatch mounted in a membrane ceiling system. The test specimen did not satisfy the performance criteria of the standard for 120 minutes due to the fire performance of the ceiling. This report considers the fire resistance of the access hatch if the ceiling had satisfied the performance criteria of the standard for the required period.

2 Scope

This report considers the fire resistance of a single-leaf access hatch when mounted in a non-loadbearing membrane ceiling and tested to BS 476: Parts 20 & 22: 1987 with fire from below.

3 Supporting data

3.1 BRE test report 265024

A ceiling membrane constructed from a steel framework, with three layers of 15mm thick Knauf Fireshield plasterboard fixed on the underside, incorporating a Fire Proofing Services Ltd. single-leaf access panel, was submitted to a fire resistance test in accordance with BS 476: Part 22: 1987 (Method 9 for ceiling membranes) on 24 August 2010. The ceiling membrane was of overall dimensions 3.50m x 4.15m with the access panels installed in a structural opening, nominally 1010mm x 1010mm.

The ceiling, incorporating the access panel (opening towards the furnace) achieved the following fire resistance:

Integrity: 106 minutes

Insulation: 13 minutes

The test was terminated after 122 minutes.

For full details see BRE Test report 265024

4 Description of the proposed access hatch

The ceiling access hatch measures up to 1m x 1m and is the same as tested in BRE test 265024. It is described in figure 1. The access hatch can be mounted in any non-loadbearing, horizontal membrane ceiling system that has already been successfully tested to BS 476: Part 22: 1987 for at least 120 minutes. All-steel hangers must be fitted at each corner of the access hatch to ensure that no load from



the access hatch is applied to the ceiling system. We understand that that ceiling access hatch will be known as the Fire Proofing Services 2hr ceiling access panel.

5 Assessment

The proposed ceiling access hatch is the same as tested as described in this report and in BRE test report 265024. The test specimen failed the integrity performance criteria after 106 minutes in an area of the ceiling remote from the access hatch. The access hatch and the ceiling in the immediate vicinity of the hatch satisfied the integrity performance criteria of the standard for the duration of the 122-minute test. Therefore we are satisfied that if the ceiling had performed as expected the test specimen would have satisfied the integrity performance criteria of BS 476: Part 22: 1987 for at least 120 minutes.

6 Conclusion

We have considered the observations taken during the fire test of the ceiling access hatch as described in BRE test report 265024 and have concluded that the failure of the test specimen was unrelated to the access hatch. Therefore, if the tested access hatch is mounted in a membrane ceiling system that has already been successfully tested to BS476: Part 22: 1987 for 120 minutes, with all-steel hangers at each corner of the access hatch, then the access hatch will also have a fire resistance of at least 120 minutes (integrity only) when exposed to fire from below. We understand that that ceiling access hatch will be known as the Fire Proofing Services 2hr ceiling access panel.

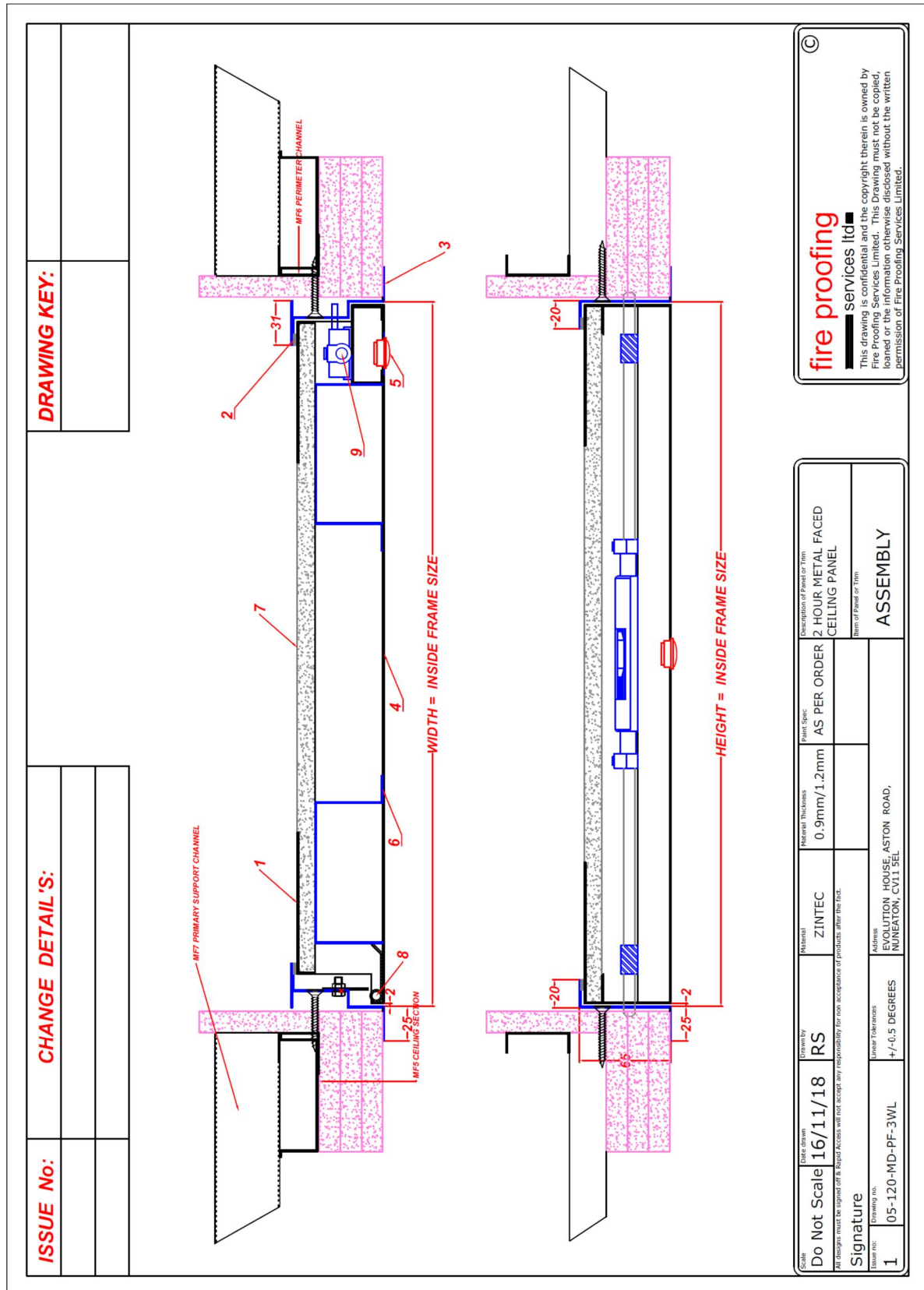


7 Figure

Key to figure 1

1. 13mm x 100mm x 0.9mm thick rear protection plates running the perimeter of the GTEC Megadeco board.
2. LSP90 6mm x 8mm Poly Urethane polyester air seal to all closing sides of frame and mullion.
3. 1000 x 1000 x 1.2mm thick Zintec frame 65mm deep with 20mm closing edge for mounting air seal. Frame fixed through to ceiling perimeter framing at maximum 300mm centres.
4. 996 x 996 x 49mm deep x 0.9mm thick door leaf.
5. 16mm plastic bung to close lock hole off.
6. 20 x 48 x 100 x 48mm x 0.9mm thick top hats in rear of door tray to support board.
7. 12.5mm thick GTEC Megadeco screw fixed to rear of door tray painted with Lafarge drywall sealer /10I, ref 2760736, BS476 Part 4 1968
8. 1.5mm thick Gold and Wassell 1628S piano hinge bolted to access panel frame with M6 bolts, nuts and penny washers
9. 3 way locking system on door engaging through the frame sides.

bre

**Figure 1** Sections through test specimen



8 Validity of the assessment

8.1 Declaration by applicant

We the undersigned confirm that we have read and complied with the obligations placed on us by the Passive Fire Protection Forum (PFPF) Guide to undertaking technical assessments and engineering evaluations based on fire test evidence 2021 Industry Standard Procedure.

We confirm that any changes which are the subject of this assessment, has not to our knowledge been tested to the standard against which this assessment has been made.

We agree to withdraw this assessment from circulation should the component or element of structure, or any of its component parts be the subject of a failed fire resistance test to the standard against which this assessment is being made.

We understand that this assessment is based on test evidence and will be withdrawn should evidence become available that causes the conclusion to be questioned. In that case, we accept that new test evidence may be required.

We are not aware of any information that could affect the conclusions of this assessment. If we subsequently become aware of any such information, we agree to ask BRE Global to withdraw the assessment.

Signature: 

Name: R.Stokes

Position: Technical Manager

Company: Fire Proofing Services Ltd

Date: 23/10/23

8.2 BRE Global declaration

This assessment was reviewed on 22 October 2023. We have received written confirmation from Fire Proofing Services Limited that there have been no changes in the specification of their ceiling access hatch since the original date of the assessment. There have been no changes in the fire test procedures or methods of assessment, which would adversely affect the fire performance of the ceiling access hatch. We are therefore satisfied that the validity of this assessment may be extended for a further five years.

This assessment is issued on the basis of test data and information to hand at the time of issue. If contradictory evidence becomes available to BRE Global the assessment will be unconditionally withdrawn and the applicant will be notified in writing. Similarly, the assessment should be re-evaluated if the assessed construction is subsequently tested since actual test data is deemed to take precedence.

The assessment is valid for a period of five years after which it is recommended that it be submitted to BRE Global for re-evaluation.



This assessment has been carried out in accordance with the Passive Fire Protection Forum (PFPF) Guide to undertaking technical assessments of the fire performance of construction products based on fire test evidence 2021. It relates to the fire performance of the product and does not cover aspects of quality, durability, maintenance nor service requirements. This assessment relates only to the specimen(s) assessed and does not by itself imply that the product is approved under any Loss Prevention Certification Board approval or certification scheme or any other endorsements, approval or certification scheme.

The assessment report is not valid unless it incorporates the declaration duly signed by the applicant.

Next review date: 22 October 2028