Sprayed Fireproofing:

Start the Job Right

By Rich Eaton

Many times the fireproofing contractor arrives at the jobsite and finds job conditions are not what he needs for a successful job. Each job is different and there will never be a perfect one, but there are some things we can do as early as bid day to eliminate some of our problems. We need to take a strong position to negotiate the conditions we expect which will allow us to fireproof without a multitude of problems to overcome.

Several years ago the Sprayed Fireproofing Committee, Tech #4, of AWCI, developed a set of standards that outlines our needs on the jobsite. Several contractors have used these standards successfully in the past. A task force, headed by Mr. Jim Keller of James A. Keller & Co., was set up by Tech #4 to review and revise the present standards at Committee Week held in Newport, Rhode Island in October 1990. The revised standards, reprinted on the next two pages, were accepted by Tech #4 in March 1991, in San Francisco.

As you read the standards, you will find a basic outline of conditions the fireproofing contractor needs to have a successful job.

On bid day a copy of the standards should be submitted with your bid to set the stage for including them in your contract. By doing this you have made the general contractor or construction manager aware of your needs. The standards are broad and may have to be modified to meet the needs of each contractor and project. Each condition that meets the needs of the project must be written into the final contract.

AWCI’s Tech #4 Subcommittee has developed standards for fireproofing that outline our needs on the jobsite. These standards are reprinted on the next two pages.

A standard submittal form for test designs has also been developed to accompany the standards when bidding or as a shop drawing submittal. Every fireproofing contractor has one or more horror stories he can tell about working around floors stocked with materials, installed pipes or ducts, inadequate pump site with water a mile away or patching he did not include in his bid. Fireproofing is an important part of a project and must be applied properly. If we all work with the same standard for job conditions, we have a stronger position when negotiating our contracts. The standard site conditions we need for our work will not only help us to have a successful project but will also help the trades that follow our work. In the competitive market we all face, we need to work together as a team!

Copies of the standards can be obtained from the AWCI office. I suggest the fireproofing manufacturers and local bureaus make copies available to their contractors. This is an important document that should be used by all contractors engaged in sprayed fireproofing.

About the Author

Rich Eaton is a Project Manager for Conroy Brothers Co., Minneapolis, Minnesota. Rich has specialized in fireproofing for several years and is Chairman of AWCI’s Tech #4 Committee on sprayed fireproofing.
AWCI’s Recommended Sprayed Fireproofing Industry Standards

1. Surfaces/Substrates scheduled to receive fireproofing:
   A. Should be free of substances which would impair adhesion.
   B. Should meet Underwriters Laboratory Test approval
   C. If primers are utilized they shall meet U.L. criteria.

2. Fireproofing contractor shall be provided a pumping station that:
   A. Is in close proximity to structure.
   B. Has convenient open access routes for material truckload deliveries and has room for parking of tailors at station.
   C. Has a convenient and constant source of water that is delivered at an adequate required pressure volume to the pump station.

3. Unless otherwise specifically noted, fireproofing contractor will require temporary heating facilities if fireproofing is to be scheduled when temperatures will fall below 40 degrees. Facilities by others include:
   A. Heat, enclosure, ventilation.
   B. If heat is required, substrate temperature must be maintained to a minimum 40 degrees for application prior to, during and minimum 24 hours after.
   C. Power, lighting, hoisting.

4. Conditions to be met prior to application within the building:
   A. Must have free and clear work areas for scaffolds and equipment from floor to area of application.
   B. Clips, hangers, straps, etc. shall be in place prior to spraying. Ducts, conduits and other suspended equipment to be installed after application.
   C. Floor or roof area to be sprayed must be complete prior to application.

5. All roof traffic is prohibited on built up roofing until spray fireproofing is completely dry.

6. See attached Industry Form Submittal for required test data, hourly rating, thickness specified, etc. (Recommended Industry Reference - AWCI’s Design Selection Utilizing Sprayed Fire Protection).

7. The cost of patching and repairing of fireproofing (including protection and cleaning) is excluded but must be performed by this contractor on a Time/Material basis.

8. Fireproofing contractor, upon completion of work, will promptly remove equipment and leave work area in an acceptable condition as previously agreed to.

9. Work shall not be started unless job can be completed in a continuous manner and without undue interference from others.


11. No backcharge to the contractor will be accepted unless previously agreed to by both parties in writing.

“The above criteria is recommended to prevent possible delays and disputes and to generally inform all concerned parties of coordination to make a successful project.”

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Submittal
For Sprayed On Fire Resistive Materials

General Contractor ___________________________________________ Project __________________________
Owner ______________________________________________________________________________________
Architect _____________________________________________________________________________________

Building Code or Testing Authority

_________ Underwriters Laboratory _______ I.C.B.O. _______ B.O.C.A. _______ S.B.C.C.

Proposed Manufacturer __________________________________________________________
Material ________________________________________________________________________________

Project Specifications

1. Columns
   A. Supporting Floors ______ Hourly Rating ______ Design ______ Thickness
   B. Supporting Roof ______ Hourly Rating ______ Design ______ Thickness

2. Roof Deck
   A. Pent House ______ Hourly Rating ______ Design ______ Thickness

3. Floor Deck ______ Hourly Rating ______ Design ______ Thickness

4. Beams - Floor
   Primary ______ Hourly Rating ______ Design ______ Thickness
   Secondary ______ Hourly Rating ______ Design ______ Thickness

5. Beams - Roof ______ Hourly Rating ______ Design ______ Thickness

6. Joist - Floor ______ Hourly Rating ______ Design ______ Thickness
   Roof ______ Hourly Rating ______ Design ______ Thickness

___________ Restrained _____________ Unrestrained

Remarks: ________________________________________________________________________________

Footnote: This Submittal Form is to be used in conjunction with the AWCI “Recommended sprayed Fireproof- ing Standards.” This submittal is based on contractor interpretation of the plans and specifications only. The application of this document to laws, statutes, building codes and other regulatory authorities is not the responsibility of this contractor.