



# INTERNATIONAL FIRESTOP COUNCIL

THE Source of Firestop Expertise®

October 11, 2019

Subject: IFC exam for firestop special inspectors

To Whom It May Concern:

The IFC examination program for firestop special inspectors is unmatched in providing a thorough, accurate, and fair evaluation of the competence of proposed firestop special inspectors.

## Study Curriculum

- IFC study curriculum is available online [www.firestop.org/overview](http://www.firestop.org/overview)
- Requires 40-60 hours of self-study
- Specifically designed to provide the knowledge needed by firestop special inspectors, including a detailed study of ASTM E2174 and E2393, the two standards required by IBC 1705.16.
- Study materials include:
  - Videos
  - Published articles (including peer-reviewed journal articles)
  - PowerPoint presentations
  - Authoritative source documents providing rules related to firestopping from organizations such as Underwriters Laboratories, ASTM, ICC, and the Gypsum Association
  - Guidance documents developed and published by the IFC (heavily referenced worldwide)
  - The online self-study curriculum is tailored to meet the needs of special inspectors, allowing them to complete the study and examination program in a timely manner.

## Examination

- The examination is comprised of 85 questions, created by experienced firestop special inspectors in North America
- Exam questions are based on each one of the references in the study program giving all prospective students an equal opportunity to study and pass the exam.
- Exam questions test comprehension of the concepts as opposed to memorization of references.
- Exam questions have been critically reviewed and revised for accuracy and comprehension by the most tenured experts from among the major worldwide firestop manufacturers (individual experience ranged from 10 to 25 years in the development, testing, and installation of firestop systems).
- Exam tried as Beta test on highly experienced firestop industry veterans, as a final check on comprehension and clarity of test questions, and to clearly establish realistic number of questions for the 2-hr exam



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- Exam is given online by reputed online test provider [www.test.com](http://www.test.com). Since 1996, Test.com has evolved and proven itself as the standard in the world of building software for online testing and certification programs. Security measures provided by Test.com include random order of exam questions, random order of exam multiple choice answers, and others. (Contact test.com for details.)
- A mandatory online practice test is made available at Test.com at the IFC's expense to allow test takers to gauge their preparedness for the 2-hr exam.
- As of October 11, 2019, a total of 300 inspectors have received a passing grade on the special inspector exam. They are listed by the IFC at [www.firestop.org/certificate-holders](http://www.firestop.org/certificate-holders), to allow easy verification of their exam status.
- To ensure integrity of the test, each exam is remote proctored live via webcam by the online service ProctorU.com. ProctorU provides online proctoring for several hundred academic institutions and corporate certification programs.
- Online and on-demand testing and proctoring make it feasible for exam candidates to establish and document their expertise without the burden of travel or barrier of limited test dates. Given that IBC 2012 and later will eventually require firestop special inspection across the entire US (as 2012+ IBC is adopted), this model fits well with the ICC's reach to all corners of the US.
- The IFC does not provide or permit any publicly available "test preparation," since such a course would likely focus on passing the exam instead of an in-depth understanding of the extensive study materials.
- Certificates are valid for 3 years

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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