



HVAC DUCTS WITH FIRE DAMPERS

The question of how to handle HVAC ducts with fire dampers comes up on a regular basis. The following are some things to remember this type of situation is encountered.

- ⌘ The manufacturers of fire dampers include detailed installation instructions with their products. If all conditions are met during installation, no further firestopping should be required.
- ⌘ To the best of my knowledge, all fire dampers manufacturers state that any additional firestopping, beyond that which is stated in their installation instructions, will void the damper's warranty and will relieve the manufacturer of any liability in the event the damper fails to operate properly in a fire. The thought here is that additional firestopping may inhibit the action of the fire damper.
- ⌘ Not all fire dampers are installed to the installation instructions. This seems to happen more frequently in "retrofit" situations.
- ⌘ When openings exist around fire dampers, the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) should be made aware of the potential damper warranty problem if the opening is firestopped with additional materials. The AHJ should make the decision as to how to proceed.
- ⌘ Openings in these cases can be "closed" by installation of a steel frame. Normally angle iron is used. Fasten the angle iron frame to the floor/wall and to the perimeter of the damper/duct. Care must be taken so that fasteners wouldn't interfere with the action of the damper.

I hope this information will answer any questions as to how to address fire damper situations.

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