Watermist protection of domestic and residential occupancies – approvals approach

Louise Jackman
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Introduction

– Domestic and residential hazard
– Domestic and residential research
– Watermist research
– Approval
Fire Hazard

- Fire scenarios
- Fire consequences
- Fire protection objectives

Domestic buildings
Individual dwellings for occupation as single family units used, constructed or adapted to be principally for human habitation, mobile homes

Residential buildings
Buildings for multiple occupation. This includes apartments, residential homes, Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO), blocks of flats, boarding houses, aged persons’ homes, nursing homes, residential rehabilitation accommodation and dormitories. This does not include secure accommodation or asylum centres

Dwellings
Buildings occupied by households, excluding hotels, hostels and residential institutions and including mobile homes

Fire scenarios in domestic and residential premises
Examples of fire scenarios in domestic and residential premises are:
- Lounge fire due to ignited candle placed too close to a television, causing the television to catch fire, which spreads to curtains and furniture
- Lounge fire due to matches or smokers’ materials
- Lounge fire due to smouldering cigarettes
- Lounge fire due to waste paper bin causing a waste to furniture
- Lounge fire due to matches or smokers’ materials

Fire protection objectives

Consequences of fires in dwellings
According to UK fire statistics, each year most fires in buildings attended by local authority fire and rescue services are fires in dwellings, and most fire deaths and injuries occur as a result of people being overcome by smoke or toxic gases. Accidental fires which result in deaths in dwellings most frequently start in rooms defined by “the lounge, living or dining room” followed by rooms defined as “the bedroom or bed sitting room”.

Smoke and fire smoke and fire
BRE Research and testing (public domain)

- 1970s+ USA residential sprinkler research
- 2000s SP, NZ, Canada experimental research
- 2000s UK experimental research
  - House fires and calorimetry fires
  - Compartment fires
  - Benchmark sprinkler fires
  - Care homes
  - Concealed/recessed
- 2007+ Watermist test
  - Prisons tests
  - Office tests
  - Domestic and residential tests

http://www.bre.co.uk/page.jsp?id=402
Research findings

- Fast flaming vs slow smoky
- Tenability
- Large open space vs compartment
- Ventilation
- Nozzles spacing & flowrate
- Pass/fail criteria
Fast flaming vs slow smoky

Simulated furniture, stylized test protocol - estimate

![Heat Release Rate vs Time Graph]

- TV fire
- Table fire
- Sofa fire
- Bed fire

Fires extinguished

Heat Release Rate (KW)

0 100 200 300 400 500 600

Time (s)

0 300 600 900 1200
Tenability - Fractional Effective Dose

- Prison fires (2008)
Large open space vs compartment

- In open
  - 850° C above crib
  - Not control

- In compartment, open door
  - 120° C at ceiling
  - Control

- Nozzle offset from fire 1.8 m, manual extinguishment < 20 mins
Ventilation

- Open test scenarios
- Droplets blown, no control

- Compartment test scenarios
- Different behaviour

- Proving tests needed for ventilation scenarios
Nozzle spacing and flowrate

- 6.25 m² spacing (5 mm/min)
- 9 m² spacing (3.5 mm/min)
Pass/fail criteria

- Temperature criteria for timely operation
- Temperature criteria for compartment tenability
- Temperature criteria for suppression control, prevention of flashover, limited damage
Domestic and residential simulated furniture fire test

- Add video

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8uNq1rOA-o&feature=c4-overview&list=UU1raz2K0b4YMPOZqmN-qBlA
Fire test protocol for domestic and residential watermist
Fire test protocol

- Fire test protocol based on fire test for residential sprinklers BS 9252
  - e.g. ceiling heights, nozzle locations, additives
- With additional consideration for:
  - fire load positions
  - ventilation conditions
  - ceiling height (optional up to 5m)
DD 8458-1 - test arrangements

- 8 m by 4 m by 2.5 m high
- Two open doorways
- Two nozzles
- ‘Dummy’ nozzle near open doorway outside room
- Untreated plywood wall lining (12mm)
- Two polyether non FR-treated foam sheets
- A wood crib, eight layers of wood sticks on top of a heptane tray
- Cotton wicks soaked in heptane
DD 8458-1 - five tests

- Corner
- Fuel package between two nozzles
- Fuel package beneath one nozzle
- Ventilation 1 – greatest challenge fuel package with ventilation
- Ventilation 2 – As per ventilation 1, but with the ventilation provided from the opposite end of the test room
DD 8458-1 - acceptance criteria

- Control test fire for 10 mins (domestic) 30 mins (residential), after operation
- Acceptance criteria are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thermocouple location</th>
<th>Maximum allowable temperature (°C)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>75 mm below underside of ceiling</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6 m above floor</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6 m above floor</td>
<td>55 (for not more than any 120 s interval)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceiling temperature - embedded 6.5 mm above the underside of the ceiling</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Temperatures should be declining 2 minutes after operation
- Third ‘dummy’ nozzle, shall not operate
Approval
Specifier/approver requirements

- Understand watermist and understand fire
- Confirm scope of application - room type, floor area, ceiling height, ventilation, ‘standard’ fire load
- Inspect fire performance reports
  - Check test house credentials
  - Check test report compliance to scope and standard
  - Check watermist system details
  - NOTE: small differences in parameters (system or test) can make a big difference to the outcome
- Check design against standards and test report
- Check component tests and approvals
- Check installation and maintenance
Approval methodology

– Approvals are based on evidence
– Compliance with standards
– Assessment of staff, processes and systems
– Periodic audits, including testing as appropriate
– Listing and approval
LPCB watermist approvals

- Component tests
- System verification
  - Design methodology assessment
- Fire performance tests
- Certification assessment
## Component tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water distribution nozzles</th>
<th>Water pumps</th>
<th>Water strainers and filters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water control valves</td>
<td>Water tank and valves</td>
<td>Water pipe hangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water check valves</td>
<td>Water flow, level pressure switches</td>
<td>Manual release</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water pipe, fittings and couplings</td>
<td>Water manifold</td>
<td>Water additive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Examination
- Marking
- Strength test
- Internal pressure test
- Leakage test
- Corrosion tests
- Function tests
- Operation tests
- Long term ageing tests
- Thermal shock test
- Nozzle clogging test
- Pump running test
System verification

- Bespoke systems
- Design manuals
- Hydraulic calculations

- System verification tests
- Water delivery tests with complete watermist system

- Design methodology assessment
- Design manual review
Fire performance tests

- Manufacturers’ watermist system
- Fire test protocol, DD 84589 part 1 (5 tests)
  - Simulated furniture
- Additional tests for maximum pressure and higher ceiling
Certification assessment

- Assessment of performance requirements of components, systems and fire tests against standardised methodologies
- Assessment of quality control, ISO 9001
- On-going assessments of product, system and management through regular Factory Production Control (FPC) and product audits.
Certificate and listing

- Product description
- Scope of application, for domestic and residential occupancies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area type</th>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bedrooms and sleeping areas</td>
<td>Floor area of compartment</td>
<td>32 m² or tested area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living rooms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchens</td>
<td>Ceiling height</td>
<td>2.5 m or tested height up to 5 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common rooms (some)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corridors</td>
<td>Ventilation</td>
<td>≤ 1 m³/s total, from any source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lofts</td>
<td>Fire load</td>
<td>“Normal” layouts covered</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary

- Watermist standard - based on comprehensive research and testing
- Watermist product testing - against application specific test protocols
- Third party approvals - increase confidence in product and system performance
Thank you

Louise Jackman
LPCB, BRE
01923 664948
Jackmanl@bre.co.uk

Domestic and residential fire test video
(with and without sprinklers)
- BREVideoUK
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8uNq1rOA-o&feature=c4overview&list=UU1raz2K0b4YMPOZqmN-qBlA