

Firestop Systems for Busway

A firestop system as defined by UL is a specific construction consisting of a wall or floor assembly, a penetrating item passing through an opening in the wall or floor, and the materials designed to prevent the spread of fire through the opening. The individual components making up the firestop system are not assigned ratings. Therefore, a busway system by itself does not have a fire rating nor is it listed by UL as a firestop system.

Some firestop systems do not include penetrating items. These systems are intended to be used to seal openings where the penetrating items have been removed or where the penetrating items have not yet been installed.

The testing standard used to investigate firestop systems is ANSI/UL 1479 "Fire Tests of Through-Penetration Firestops". This standard defines the criteria for hourly F, T, and L ratings for firestop systems.

- The F rating criteria prohibits flame passage through the system and requires acceptable hose stream test performance.
- The T rating criteria prohibits flame passage through the system and requires the maximum temperature rise on the unexposed surface of the wall or floor assembly, on the penetrating item and on the fill material not exceed 325⁰F(181⁰C) above ambient. It also requires acceptable hose stream test performance.
- The L rating criteria determines the amount of air leakage through the firestop system.

The UL Directory "Fire Resistance – Vol. 2" contains the listing and classification of firestop systems. As long as the busway being used in a specific installation meets the description for the busway of a particular firestop system, it may be used as the penetrating item for that system.