

Intumescent Fire & Acoustic Socket Box inserts – Questions We Asked

Are these regulations or just recommended.

They are requirements of the Building Regulations Parts B & E and they will be covered under BS 7671 and Part P.

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One thing that is stated clearly though is that if any opening is made in a fire resisting element, it should be sealed to the same fire resistance:

“If a fire separating element is to be effective, every joint, or imperfection of fit, or opening to allow services to pass through the element, should be adequately protected by sealing or fire-stopping so that the fire resistance of the element is not impaired.”
(Para 7.2, page 38)

This is also stated in BS 7671, 17th Edition:

“A wiring system shall be installed so that the general building structural performance and fire safety are not reduced.”
(Para 527.1.2, page 107)

Within Document B it specifies elements of the structure that need to be fire rated as they form compartments. Basically speaking, the key areas are load bearing walls, property separating walls, garages, cooking areas and escape routes (i.e. hallways etc.). These will almost always have to have a minimum fire rating (e.g. 30 mins, 60 mins - dependant upon risks) and other risks may also mean that other elements of the structure need to be rated in addition to these.

The references to these are dotted throughout the Document but the actual requirements in minutes are summarised in Tables A1 and A2 in Appendix A (p59/60/61). As you can see, these give requirements for various elements of structure such as loadbearing walls, external walls, compartment walls etc. Obviously going back to the first point, any hole in these any of the elements listed in the tables must have the original fire rating reinstated.

Due to the fact that it may be unclear as to if a specific wall falls under any of the categories mentioned within Tables A1 and A2, we would always state to treat every wall as a fire resisting element and reinstate the fire protection - that way the installer is covered.