



## Development Services Center

### Fire Resistant Intumescent Paint – Fire Separation Alternative Method

The use of fire resistant intumescent paint to provide additional fire rating for area separation is allowed as an alternative method in accordance with International Building Code (IBC) Section 104.11. In situations in which fire rated separation is required for existing buildings, fire rated intumescent paint can be used to provide an additional 1 hour rating to an existing wall, floor, or ceiling. The total fire resistance of the existing wall will be based on the actual cross sectional construction of the wall, floor, or ceiling. **This alternative method is not approved for new construction.**

Unless listed by a nationally recognized testing agency, fire retardant paint is not considered to be fire resistant and will not comply with this alternative method. The intent of the fire resistant paint is to increase the time that fire will not penetrate the construction. Fire retardant paint improves the smoke generation and/or flame spread of the product.

The following paints are pre-approved for this alternative method based on tests by the City and review of product data sheets from the manufacturers:

**Firefree 88**     [www.firefree.com](http://www.firefree.com)

**Contego**     [www.contegofirebarrier.com](http://www.contegofirebarrier.com)

In accordance with IBC 104.11, the use of this alternate method will require approval by the City of Spokane Department of Building Services. A written request for this alternative method delineating the specific scope of work is required to be submitted to the City. If the product proposed is not one of the pre-approved products, product information is required to verify that the proposed product will meet the one hour rated resistance. The City may require additional testing information and could require samples of the product to conduct their own test. Only products that have been listed by a nationally recognized agency will be considered.

As part of the allowance for the alternate method, a third party verification and testing of the application of the paint to ensure that it meets the requirements of the listing and is applied to the proper thickness will be conducted. This is required in accordance with IBC 104.11.2 with no expense to the City. The results of the testing and verification that the paint was properly applied will be submitted to the City for approval prior to the final inspection and occupancy of the space/building. The third party investigation shall be conducted by a person or company that is approved by the paint manufacturer and subject to the approval by the City of Spokane.

There are no requirements for the qualifications for the applier of the paint, other than they are subject to review by the third party verification. It is recommended that the painter be properly qualified for the application of the paint and fully aware of the requirements for preparation, application, and curing the various surfaces.



*My Spokane*

**Business & Developer Services Division**

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