

Fire Stopping Inspection

Course specification

Welcome!

National Safety Academy is an innovative training provider offering courses and qualifications for safety professionals.

It's important to us that education is accessible. Not just in terms of cost, but also in the way it is delivered.

Learning shouldn't be a battle with complicated textbook paragraphs. It shouldn't be dry PowerPoint slides. It shouldn't be technical information without real-life context. It shouldn't be commitment to classroom dates, time away from work and family, and fixed exam schedules.

Instead, National Safety Academy believes learning should feel natural and engaging. It should be challenging, but in all the right ways. It should be comfortably balanced with personal and professional life. Most importantly, it should prepare and assess the learner in a way which reflects their real-life responsibilities outside of a learning environment.

It's your education, so do it your way.

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About the course

This course equips you with the knowledge and skills to carry out effective, non-destructive inspections of installed fire stopping.

Fire stopping is often hidden, easily disturbed by later works, and one of the most common causes of compartmentation failure. You'll learn what good fire stopping looks like, how it is tested and evidenced, and how to recognise installations unlikely to perform in a fire, such as expanding foam around services.

The course covers inspection during construction and in existing occupied buildings, where records and test evidence are often missing.

You'll learn to inspect proportionately: recording what can and cannot be verified, and recognising when an older or undocumented seal needs further investigation rather than automatic replacement. You'll also reflect on your own competence using the SKEB model (Skills, Knowledge, Experience and Behaviour).

Full competence requires ongoing practice, supervised experience and the right professional context to apply learning safely and effectively.

At a glance

Level
Role-based

Duration
20 hours

Delivery
Online, self-directed with supporting course materials

Assessment
Virtual firestopping inspection and inspection documentation

Also part of
Certificate in Passive Fire Protection

Who is this course for?

The NSA | Fire Stopping Inspection course is for individuals who have responsibility for inspecting fire stopping in-house or for a variety of external clients, in both new-build and occupied buildings.

These individuals might include:

- Fire safety consultants
- Fire risk assessors
- Building safety managers
- Accountable/principal accountable person representatives
- Building, estates and facilities managers
- Safety professionals
- Clerks of works and site quality managers

Who is this course not suitable for?

This course alone is unlikely to provide an appropriate level of competence to carry out intrusive compartmentation surveys or to sign off fire stopping on higher-risk buildings. Whilst this course will provide a knowledge base enabling the learner to go on to carry out these responsibilities in the future, further study and experience would certainly be required before they would be considered competent to do so.

This course is not installer training and does not cover the installation of fire stopping systems in any substantive detail. It covers non-destructive visual inspection only; intrusive inspection is introduced, but learners are not trained to carry it out.

It does not cover the design or specification of fire stopping, structural fire protection, or the inspection of fire doors (covered by our Fire Door Inspection course).

Your learning journey

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

- Explain how fire and smoke spread through buildings, and how compartmentation and fire stopping limit that spread.
- Explain the legal duties and guidance that apply to fire stopping, including who is responsible for it and what competence an inspector needs.
- Describe how a fire stopping system works as a whole and why fire resistance depends on the tested system rather than individual products.
- Interpret test and classification evidence, including field of application and third-party certification, to judge whether it supports what is installed.
- Plan and carry out non-destructive inspections, identifying defects, taking key measurements and recognising the limits of visual inspections.
- Evaluate and record findings consistently and make proportionate, evidence-based recommendations to those responsible for buildings.

Your learning journey

Duration

This course is **approximately 20 hours** which are made up of a mixture of guided learning, assessment, and independent research. You can split these hours up whichever way works best for you. You might be able to take 2-3 days to complete the course in one go, or alternatively you can fit study in around other commitments in your life.

From the date of enrolment, you'll have **6 months** to complete your course.

How is it delivered?

Our courses are designed to be delivered via self-directed, distance learning.

This means you can navigate through the course content in your learning portal online and study whenever and wherever works best for you!

Your learning journey

Course content

Our course syllabus ensures progressive learning, building from foundational principles to practical application. You will study **8 blocks** that guide your development step by step.

Welcome	A welcome to the course, academic malpractice policies, and the fire safety landscape in England and Wales.
What is fire?	How fires start, develop and spread – the fire tetrahedron, ignition sources and the stages of fire growth.
What is fire stopping?	Discover how compartmentation protects life and property. This block explains fire-separating elements, what fire stopping is, and why a single unsealed gap can undermine an entire compartment.
Legislation and guidance	Understand fire safety law, the Responsible Person's duties and key legislation such as the Fire Safety Order, Fire Safety Act and Building Safety Act, and how compliance and safety differ.
Fire stopping systems	Examine supporting construction, services, ducts and dampers, linear joints and cavity barriers, and why fire resistance comes from the whole tested system rather than an individual product.
Testing and evidence of performance	Understand how fire stopping is tested and classified, including field of application, European Technical Assessments and third-party certification, and how to judge whether the evidence supports what is installed.
Assessment 1	

[Continued]

Carrying out fire stopping inspections	Develop the skills to plan and conduct non-destructive fire stopping inspections, from preparation and safe access to identifying defects, taking measurements and verifying against evidence.
Record keeping and reporting	Understand why clear documentation matters, covering inspection records, photographic evidence, the golden thread, communicating findings and using the NSA Fire Stopping Inspection Report.
Putting it into practice	Apply your learning: set inspection frequencies, manage fire stopping in occupied buildings and work through three case studies, including identifying a non-conformity by measurement.
Assessment 2	
ID check	
Certificate	

Assessment

How will I be assessed?

NSA assessments are designed to reflect real life, and enable you to demonstrate the skills that are required in a workplace. They are designed to measure your understanding of key concepts, your ability to apply knowledge in real-world situations, and your critical thinking skills.

Our Fire Stopping Inspection course consists of two assessments in total:

Assessment 1 | Knowledge test

The first assessment is the knowledge test which takes place mid-course after Block 5. You'll have 60 minutes to answer 30 questions which assess a mixture of both solely technical knowledge and scenario-based application.

Assessment 2 | Fire stopping inspection

A virtual inspection of fire stopping installations in two buildings, completed in your own time over 4 weeks. You'll work from site photographs, inspection notes and the documentation available, then record your findings and recommendations on the NSA Fire Stopping Inspection Record, just as you would on a real job.

Assessment

Completing your assessments

When you reach the relevant points in the course, you will be able to complete your assessments when you are ready from within the learning portal.

The timescales to complete each assessment are as follows:

Assessment 1	60 minutes
Assessment 2	4 weeks

Grading and feedback

Assessment 1 will be marked instantly once you reach the end of the test. You will need to answer at least 80% of the questions correctly to pass. You can attempt Assessment 1 as many times as you need, with each resit charged at £15 + VAT.

Assessment 2 will be marked by our team of assessors, who will aim to mark your assessment and provide feedback within 10 working days, which you'll be able to access through your learning portal.

We use a Pass/Refer grading system

This simply means:

Pass - You've met all the assessment criteria. Great job!
Refer - One or more of the assessment criteria was not met.

Assessment

Resubmissions

Remember, a ‘refer’ isn’t a fail - it’s an opportunity to refine your skills and knowledge so you can be even more effective in keeping people safe in real life.

Your assessor will provide feedback on any parts of the assessment where you haven’t fully met the criteria. This feedback will clearly highlight the specific areas that need improvement, so you’ll know exactly where to return to the learning materials and review your understanding.

When you’re ready, you can resubmit your assessment at any time, after payment of the associated fee. For information on current fees, please review our Resubmission and Late Submission Policy.

Certification

Once you have passed all of the required assessments, you will just need to complete our identity verification checks before your digital certificate is issued.

Hard copy certificates are available on request for a fee of £20 + VAT.

Support

What support will I receive?

Your learning journey will be supported with our digital workbook using real-life examples, case studies, and videos. Our learning materials use everyday language that just makes sense - the first time you read it.

You will navigate through the course content in your learning portal online. To support your learning, you'll also have access to:

- Consolidation activities at the end of each block to test your understanding.
- Community forums to learn and share knowledge with your peers.
- Learner support team for queries around your enrolment, policies and procedures.

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