

HVCA

*Guide to
Good Practice*

**Heating and
Ventilating
Contractors'
Association**

For the Installation of Fire and Smoke Dampers



DW / 145

Guide to Good Practice

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DW/145

HVCA

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INTRODUCTION



Whilst fire and smoke dampers have been in use for many years, there was until recently a lack of nationally recognised criteria to ensure their integration into the building structure in a practical, efficient and effective manner.

Rather, it was left to ductwork designers, damper manufacturers and Building Control and fire authorities to specify the method of installation in each case. More often than not, the decision on the method to be employed was based in the end upon opinion rather than certified test results.

When an industry guide to the design and installation of fire and smoke dampers was finally developed by the ASFP (Association for Specialist Fire Protection) and HEVAC (Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning Manufacturers Association), and published in April 2007 as the ASFP's Grey Book, the Ductwork Group of the HVCA collaborated in its production and continues fully to support its content.

The Group also believed, however, that a complementary publication was required to address the practicalities of the system design and installation process as a whole – a belief that has led to the introduction of this publication, the *Guide to Good Practice: For the Installation of Fire and Smoke Dampers (DW/145)*.

This guide highlights many of the basic principles contained in the design and installation process, whilst at the same time identifying the responsibilities that attach to the team as a whole – which, of course, comprises designers, builders, manufacturers and local authorities as well as mechanical services, ductwork and other specialist contractors.

It identifies, clearly and concisely, the matters that must be addressed when fire and/or smoke dampers are to be installed within a building's ventilation ductwork system.

Also acknowledged is the universal responsibility we *all* carry for the protection of individuals throughout the built environment.

Kevin Talbot

Chairman

HVCA Ductwork Group

Industry feedback

This guide to good practice brings together several disciplines involved in the overall process from system specification, damper manufacture through to a compliant installation. The emphasis throughout is on teamwork and, in particular, good communications and in this respect the HVCA would welcome any feedback that will allow improvements to the guide to be made in future editions.

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