

## **Industry Training for Passive Fire Protection Industry**

***Author Greg Baker, Chairman of FPANZ Passive Fire Protection Group***

Following on from the successful FPANZ Passive Fire Protection Group workshop in November 2006 a meeting to specifically discuss training for the passive industry was held at Fire Industry House on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2006. The purpose of the meeting was to further gauge the level of support for industry training and to discuss how the Passive Group could progress the issue generally.

The issue of industry training had been a significant topic of discussion at the November workshop - this high level of interest was further reinforced by approximately 15 people attending the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

There are three generic levels that industry training could focus on:

1. Installation
2. Supervision
3. Design

The consensus of the meeting was that the areas of Installation and Supervision should be the initial emphasis for industry training, with Design being a future option.

There are three options for the Passive Group as to what types of qualification could be provided, in a diminishing order of status:

1. A qualification that is recognised by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA)
2. A qualification that is provided by a Private Training Enterprise (PTE) through an Industry Training Organisation (ITO)
3. A qualification that is provided through FPANZ

To provide further information for those at the meeting, FPANZ Board member Kevin Kennedy and Penny Stedman from Firetech Training Ltd gave a presentation which outlined the requirements for a NZQA registered qualification.

Before a qualification can be registered by NZQA a number of criteria must be met. At the most fundamental level there needs to be positive interest from the stakeholders for the training – in this case the passive fire protection industry. There has to be evidence of genuine consultation with stakeholders and industry interest, including potential students.

The presentation also highlighted that there are numerous aspects of a training course itself that must be dealt with. Careful consideration needs to be given to the aims and intended learning outcomes of the course and then matters of content such as delivery methods, training and resource material, unit standards as well as the process of assessment, delivery resources and evaluation and review of the course. The question of funding is also a major consideration,

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whether that is the money required for the course development or the cost for students to undertake the training.

The general consensus from the meeting was that although a NZQA-recognised qualification was the ultimate outcome for this initiative by the Passive Group, the more achievable goal was that either a PTE or FPANZ course be explored in the short term. To this end a Steering Group was set up with membership consisting of:

- Steve King from Auckland City Environments
- John Fleming from FirePro Centabuild
- Bob Campton from Progressive Building Systems
- Geoff Willis from NZ Fire Doors
- Hans Gerlich from Winstone Wallboards
- Greg Baker from BRANZ (Steering Group Chair).

It was agreed that the Steering Group would next meet in early February 2007 – the main item on the agenda for this meeting will be possible topics for unit standards with respect to Installer and Supervisor training programmes.

The FPANZ Passive Fire Protection Group is still very keen to recruit new members. FPANZ membership is a prerequisite for involvement in initiatives such as industry training.

If you would like to enquire about membership or find out more about the Passive Group, please contact Passive Group Chairman Greg Baker at [GregBaker@branz.co.nz](mailto:GregBaker@branz.co.nz) or phone 04 238 1365.

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