

Promat DURASTEEL[®] barriers protect against transformer blasts

Promat DURASTEEL[®] systems have been used to protect people and property against the risk of fire and blast for nearly 50 years. More recently, a number of Promat DURASTEEL[®] barrier systems have been installed to prevent catastrophic damage in the event of power transformer blasts.

Many large commercial and industrial buildings or complexes have power distribution transformers installed adjacent and in close proximity to the premises. Insurers and corporate risk managers consider transformers to be the most critical electrical components within facilities today. This is due to the quantity of oil contained within the transformer, its contact with high voltage elements and the dangers involved with failure.

Although power and distribution transformers have service lives ranging from 25 to 50 years, there are many electrical transformers in service that were built and installed in 1950's or earlier. With an increasing age of installed transformers, the frequency of fire and blast incidents can be expected to increase over coming years.

The traditional arrangement of a series of adjacent transformers can often lead to a total loss of power distribution in the event that a fire and blast of one unit creates a 'domino' effect within the series. Promat DURASTEEL[®] barriers can be installed between transformers, isolating the blast and minimising subsequent disruption to business and the surrounding environment.

Promat DURASTEEL[®] is a composite sheet comprised of a fibre cement core sandwiched between mechanically bonded galvanised steel facings. It has exceptional fire and blast resistant properties combined with lightness and durability.

Due to its relatively light weight, Promat DURASTEEL[®] barriers typically require simpler and smaller foundations than poured concrete or concrete block barriers. This can result in significant cost savings especially with retrofit applications where existing equipment is being upgraded or existing underground service foundations cannot be disturbed. Promat DURASTEEL[®] barriers can also be demountable and re-mountable, making maintenance and transformer replacement easier.

Promat DURASTEEL[®] fire and blast resistant barrier systems have been used extensively on a number of high profile projects including the London Underground's Jubilee Line Extension, The British Museum, Heathrow Terminal 5 and the new Westfield London retail project.

Promat UK Marketing Manager, Sean Appleton commented, “Fire and explosion can have a devastating effect on human life, the environment and business. The onus is on everybody involved in the design and building process to ensure fire and blast contingencies are incorporated in future projects where necessary.”

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Editors’ Notes

Promat UK Limited is the UK’s only dedicated manufacturer of passive fire protection products and systems. As well as Promat DURASTEEL® barrier systems, Promat’s product portfolio includes high performance calcium silicate boards Promat SUPALUX®, Promat MASTERBOARD® and Promat VERMICULUX®, as well as the Promat PROMASEAL® range of fire-stopping products.

The company is renowned for its technical expertise and draws upon the resources of a worldwide research and development network and over 50 years experience in passive fire protection. Promat is subsidiary of Etex, the Belgian building materials group present in over 40 countries.

Issued on behalf of:

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