

**HEVAC Air Distribution Manufacturers Group installation guidance**

Manufacturers of air distribution products including grilles, diffusers, other outlets, fire dampers and smoke control dampers provide essential guidance for their products to ensure that they will work, remain compliant, be safe and be secure during their expected operational lifetimes.

The guidance provides the purchaser/installer with clear details of product installation and on-going maintenance. This must be checked before mounting, then carefully followed and not ignored.

It is imperative that contractors installing such products read, understand and most importantly follow the information and advice provided. Not doing so may lead to problems at commissioning and for fire and smoke related products it may lead to issues with building control, which will not be readily solvable.

Manufacturers produce certain products within strict standards often covered by a QA system in accordance with ISO 9001. These will automatically be provided with installation, operation and maintenance instructions.

In addition to this, certain products are covered by a harmonised European product standard (hEN). These are products that fall directly under the [UK Statutory instrument 2013 No 1387 CPR](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/1387/contents/made) (Construction Products Regulation). There is a legal requirement to CE mark such products being placed on the market. For some products this may simply be a matter of having some factory production control and self-certification of the products. For other fire safety related products, such as fire dampers and smoke control dampers, this requires an additional third-party certification for confirmation of testing and provision of information. Self-certification is not allowed.

In all cases of CE marked products, clear instructions are provided for the installation, operation and maintenance. These must be followed to ensure that the product will achieve its classification and continues to do so through its lifetime.

CE marked products that must achieve specific performances (e.g. fire resistance performance) will be provided with a Declaration of Performance (DoP). This performance will be achieved if the product is installed, operated and maintained correctly.

For fire and smoke control products, the DoP provides the full information on the fire resistance performance, known as the classification. This tells us the time period for the fire resistance and is related to both the compartment wall/floor type and the installation method in that wall/floor type. These are not interchangeable and if the installation method is not followed correctly, the fire resistance will be affected, and the manufacturer will be unlikely to offer support in a change of installation method to the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).

A DoP should provide the following information as a minimum

* Product name
* Intended use: e.g. Fire damper, Smoke control damper
* Manufacturer
* Approved distributor (if relevant)
* System of assessment and verification of constancy of performance (AVCP)
* Fire performance classification – e.g. E60S related to wall/floor and install method(s)
* Other supporting information on stability/durability/performance

DoPs, installation, operation and maintenance information are freely available from manufacturers and should be reviewed before and after purchase by the different parties involved.

[Regulation (EU) No 305/2011](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32011R0305) (construction products), as amended, contains the provisions for the DoP and the CE marking.

**A list of HEVAC Air Distribution Manufacturers is at** [**www.feta.co.uk/associations/hevac/specialist-groups/air-distribution-group-members**](http://www.feta.co.uk/associations/hevac/specialist-groups/air-distribution-group-members)