An updated FM

The insurance conglomerate has rebranded itself and implemented some changes

by Mark S. Graham

FM (previously FM Global) and its code-approved testing and certification business unit, FM Approvals, have undergone rebranding and implemented several updates to their services and guidelines. Because the two entities are sometimes referenced in roofing projects' construction documents, these changes could affect you.

Rebranding

On July 17, FM announced an update to its brand, including a new name; logo; tagline, "Protect Your Purpose"; and website, fm.com.

FM is the parent brand for its flagship mutual commercial property insurance company and FM Affiliated, FM Approvals, FM Boiler Re, FM Cargo and FM Renewable Energy.

FM Approvals' brand and logo also have been updated, but its FM name and certification mark are not changing. FM Approvals indicates the brand evolution has no effect on its certification mark, existing tested or certified products, or

products that successfully complete testing and certification in the future. No action is required on users' part.

Updated RoofNav

On May 6, FM Approvals launched an updated version of its online RoofNav application. This is the first major overhaul since RoofNav was released in 2001.

Most notably, RoofNav has a different appearance from the previous version. Icons are provided on the top right-hand side of the home screen for RoofNav number access, assembly search, ratings calculator, product search, help and reference documents and save functions. Also, RoofNav's assembly search capability is substantially improved and includes progressive filtering functionality.

RoofNav is accessible at roofnav.com.

Interior debris protection

In July 2022, FM Approvals published a new standard specific to interior debris barrier systems, FM 4652, "Examination Standard for Debris Barriers." The standard provides criteria for interior fire-exposure testing and evaluating melt-out or drop-out properties of debris barriers around fire sprinklers. Criteria also are provided for manufacturing, installation, maintenance and

repair instructions of debris barrier systems; demonstrating quality control programs; and surveillance audits.

To date, two companies and three products have been approved by FM Approvals based on FM 4652. Reportedly, several other manufacturers or suppliers are in the process of obtaining approvals.

The approvals of debris barrier systems are listed in FM Approvals' online approval guide, accessible at approval guide.com. Approved debris barrier systems are best found by typing "FM 4652-Debris Barriers" in the website's search function. Debris barrier systems are not included in RoofNav.

FM 4652 is not referenced in any model fire or building codes. Reference to FM 4652 has been added to the latest edition of FM's Loss Prevention Data Sheet 1-0, "Safeguards During Construction, Alteration, and Demolition."

FM recommends debris barrier systems be included during construction of FM-insured, highly protected risk, limited combustible loading, HC-1 and HC-2 occupancies. Additional information about FM's building, loading and occupancy categories is included in FM Loss Prevention Data Sheet 3-26, "Fire Protection for Nonstorage Occupancies."

FM Loss Prevention Data Sheets are available at fmglobaldatasheets .com.

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ARMA releases 2024 edition of modified bitumen guide

The Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association has released the 2024 edition of its *Modified Bitumen Design Guide for Building Owners*. The guide provides an overview of the materials used in polymer-modified bitumen roof systems and serves as a resource for roofing professionals involved in the installation and maintenance of asphalt roof systems.

The guide addresses relevant aspects, issues and concerns of polymer-modified bitumen roof systems, including associated components, substrates, construction techniques and innovative uses. It also emphasizes the importance of adhering to local building codes and manufacturer specifications to ensure correct installation and usage.

The manual is available at asphaltroofing.org/arma-publications.

Why cybersecurity awareness is crucial

Verizon's 2023 Data Breach Investigations Report shows 74% of data breaches were caused by human error, including social engineering attacks, errors and misuse by employees, according to Total IT, a Dallas-based company providing IT solutions and services.

An employee's lack of cybersecurity awareness can lead to significant financial and reputational damage for a company, so it is vital to educate employees regarding the importance of cybersecurity and their role in protecting company information.

Total IT shares the following reasons to prioritize cybersecurity awareness among your employees.

- **Protection against phishing attacks and insider threats.** Phishing scams are a common form of cyberattack where attackers trick employees into sharing sensitive information, such as login credentials or financial data. Educating your employees regarding how to identify and report phishing attempts can help prevent these attacks from succeeding.
- **Safeguarding sensitive data.** Employees often handle sensitive data such as customer information and financial records, so you can prevent accidental exposure by educating them regarding proper data handling.
- **Ensuring regulatory compliance.** Regulatory bodies require organizations to implement proper security measures to protect sensitive data. When employees are educated regarding compliance, you can avoid costly penalties and maintain your customers' trust.
- **Encouraging a culture of security.** By promoting cyber security awareness among employees and creating a culture of security within your company, you give employees a sense of responsibility and accountability and help prevent cyberattacks.
- **Reducing security incidents and downtime.** A successful cyberattack can cause significant downtime for your business, so having employees who will not fall prey to scams reduces the likelihood of potential downtime and its effects.

As you consider how to raise cybersecurity awareness among your employees, be sure you conduct regular training sessions; provide simulated phishing attacks; create a security policy; encourage reporting of suspicious activity; and lead by example to ensure you and upper management also are educated regarding cybersecurity protocols.

NRCA has partnered with BPM Insurance Services and Acrisure to create NRCA's Cyber Liability Insurance Program. More information is available at nrca.net/insurance/nrca-endorsed-insurance/nrca-cyber-security.

Virginia Tech study will rate construction helmets

Blackburn, Va.-based Virginia Tech's Helmet Lab has been studying and providing safety ratings for athletic helmets for nearly two decades and now will begin developing a grading system for construction helmets, according to Construction Dive.

The 18-month study aims to better understand the types of head impacts workers experience on job sites and which helmets best protect them.

Researchers will record information about head trauma on job sites from injury reports and studies from groups such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Then, they will attempt to recreate those collisions in the lab before analyzing which helmets best protect against the most common types of head injury.

Barry Miller, director of outreach and business development for the Helmet Lab, says data collected by researchers from sensors in Virginia Tech athletes have helped the lab understand how they hit their heads and develop ratings for which helmets best protect athletes from those collisions.

The Virginia Tech research is concerned with the head trauma someone can encounter daily and the best ways to protect a worker from multiple types of head injuries. Miller says the lab is working to collect data about head collisions on the job, but the type of information—or lack thereof—in the available data can be a challenge.

> To learn about the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's selection criteria for head protection, go to professionalroofing.net

"Injury reports say: 'I fell and hit my head.' Well, where? How hard? Did you hit your back first?" Miller says.

Miller adds the best type of information the lab can use to recreate head injuries is video. Contractors can help by supplying visual aids to indicate how workers fell and hit their heads, which can inform researchers regarding how to better test helmets in the lab.