READY TO INSPECT — STANDARD FIELD GUIDE

AWCI (fireproofing & interiors)

Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industry

The AWCI guidance covers spray-applied fire-resistive material and the wall and ceiling work that surrounds it. It addresses how the steel or substrate is prepared, how much material goes on and how dense it is, how well it bonds, and how it gets patched back after other trades cut into it. On a walk it is the standard behind the gray fuzz on the structure, and behind the bare patches that appear once the mechanical and electrical crews have run their work through it.

What it covers

- Substrate cleaning and preparation before application
- Applied thickness and in-place density of fire-resistive material
- Bond and cohesion of the material to the substrate
- Wall and ceiling assembly work coordinated with the fireproofing
- Patching and repair after penetrations by other trades

What a field inspection looks at

- Thickness verified with a depth gauge and photographed with the reading against the steel, at the thin spots rather than the easy ones.
- Substrate condition documented before spray, since material sprayed over oil, dust or paint never bonds the way it should.
- Bond checked where the material meets the steel, with any spot showing separation or overspray photographed as found.
- Penetrations by other trades photographed after patching, so the repair is on record and not left as bare structure behind a ceiling.
- Density confirmed against what the assembly requires, with sampling and readings documented rather than eyeballed by color alone.

Adoption varies by jurisdiction. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction enforces before you run a walk against it.