



## An updated FM

The insurance conglomerate has rebranded itself and implemented some changes

by Mark S. Graham

**F**M (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](http://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



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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](http://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 [approvalguide.com](http://approvalguide.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 combustibles 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](http://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](http://asphaltroofing.org/arma-publications).

