

# PUTTING UP A BARRIER FIRE

**GERMANY, CROATIA AND SLOVAKIA  
ARE TAKING MAJOR STEPS TO IMPROVE  
FIRE SAFETY BY INSTALLING FIRE  
BARRIERS IN BUILDINGS.**

*An increasing number of European countries  
are demanding the introduction of fire  
barriers in buildings to improve fire safety –  
more countries need to follow their example.*

**KNAUF**INSULATION  
*it's time to save energy*



In Germany building fire safety has come under the media spotlight in recent years particularly after several headline fires including one in Frankfurt where 21 people were injured.

*“More than 70,000 people are killed or injured by fire in buildings every year across Europe,”* says **Barry Lynham** President of the campaign group **Fire Safe Europe** (FSEU) and Knauf Insulation’s Director of Strategy and Communication. *“Now we are seeing more and more countries demanding – as a minimum – that fire barriers are installed on buildings to secure a fire safe environment.”*

These moves are to be welcomed and Knauf Insulation calls on other countries to follow the examples of Germany, Croatia and Slovakia and improve the fire safety performance of their buildings.

In December 2014 there was a major breakthrough in the improvement of building fire safety performance in Germany.

**Deutsches Institut für Bautechnik** (DIBt), an institute that provides technical advice to the German government, recommended that *“at least three”* fire proof barrier ‘trips’ should be installed on buildings with external thermal insulation systems.

Spokesman for the **Frankfurt Fire Service**, **Markus Röck**, told Insulation Matters: *“The recommendation by the DIBt is a step forward but we would obviously prefer to see no flammable material on a building façade. Most fire fighters prefer zero risk.”*

Germany is not alone in tackling the issue of fire safety by introducing barriers to make buildings safer.

In Croatia, following campaigns by groups such as the **Croatian Association of Fire Protection**, it is now mandatory to install non-combustible external insulation after a height of 11 metres on all new buildings and those being renovated.

*“We are beginning to see a renovation revolution across Europe as a result of increasing awareness and it is vital that we deliver proper fire safety from day one, particularly in public buildings,”* said **Juliette Albiac** Managing Director of FSEU. *“That means the right materials installed from the beginning. In the long term it is in everyone’s interest. We will all have safer homes, offices, schools and hospitals and will all be assured that the best performing safety materials will give us greater protection if a fire starts in these buildings.”*

In Slovakia, the **Association of Preventative Fire Safety** along with other interested groups, helped draw up proposals to introduce more fire safe materials during building renovation.

From 2016 external insulation systems applied to existing buildings will need to have 20cm fire barriers above each floor and large-scale fire testing will become mandatory after 2018. The fire barriers will also become mandatory for insulation thicker than 100mm, essentially to be applied throughout all renovation due to tightening U value requirements as of 2016.

*“The introduction of fire safety barriers in buildings in Germany, Croatia and Slovakia will undoubtedly reduce the risk of fatalities. Other countries need to follow their example before it’s too late.”*

---

**Juliette Albiac,**  
Managing Director, Fire Safe Europe

---

Read more in our **Sustainability Report 2015**



**May 2012**  
**Frankfurt, Germany**  
*A façade fire in a building caused 500,000 euros of damage.*