

Promat

Wood Lane Tube Station on Track with Promat DURASTEEL® Barriers

Promat DURASTEEL®, the high performance fit-and-forget fire barrier, is being put to the test on London's newest Tube station.

Promat DURASTEEL® has been specified for three separate contract packages on Wood Lane station, a gateway to the huge new Westfield London shopping and leisure complex that opened for business in October 2008.

The development is a partnership between the Westfield property group and London Underground, whose land has been leased by Westfield. Both are playing a vital role in the regeneration of the area. Westfield has invested £170 million into the transport infrastructure.

Promat DURASTEEL® is a complete passive fire containment system, tested under the most extreme conditions. It is a one-stop solution that specifiers know they can rely on and has been successfully installed in many high profile projects including Heathrow's Terminal 5 and other London Underground stations. For Ian Ritchie Architects, Promat DURASTEEL® was an easy choice for Wood Lane. "Durasteel is the only product in its field with the reliability and durability for a transport environment," says Ian Ritchie's Gordon Talbot.

"We've used it successfully on the Jubilee Line and Central Line and we have a very good relationship with Promat," he continued.

Ian Ritchie Architects has already specified Promat DURASTEEL® and other Promat fire protection products across the Westfield London development, including the tallest Promat DURASTEEL® fire barrier to date at the refurbished DIMCO building. At 25 metres high, the barrier protects an electricity sub-station, a central component of the scheme.

The work on Wood Lane station had its own challenges. It's the first new station to be built on a London Underground line for more than 70 years and sits between the existing Shepherd's Bush and Latimer Road stations on the Hammersmith and City Line.

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The station has four lifts, two to each platform, which are elevated above the concourse. The station is also fully accessible between street and platform levels.

Wood Lane is a state-of-the art development and required a robust fire protection system. Promat DURASTEEL[®] is literally built into the fabric of a building, and creates a physical barrier to contain heat and the spread of smoke and fire. This compartmentation helps control the course of a fire and the damage it can do. Due to the growing demands of insurers and the challenges of compliance with building regulations, barriers like Promat DURASTEEL[®] are a vital component of building design.

The product itself is a composite sheet made with a core of fibre cement sandwiched between mechanically-bonded galvanised steel facings. It can withstand up to six hours exposure to fire, and while hot, will withstand spray from fire-fighters' hoses or sprinkler systems. Promat DURASTEEL[®] is also renowned for its impact and blast resistance performance. Yet this exceptional performance is combined with lightness and durability.

These qualities have won Promat DURASTEEL[®] growing support across the construction industry and made it a clear front runner for Wood Lane. "It seems to be the product everyone turns to in demanding environments such as the London Underground," says James Wraight from contractor Towns-Wadey.

The Watford-based firm is one of three working with DURASTEEL[®] for project manager Costain on Wood Lane. The installer was specialist sub-contractor and DURASTEEL[®] Licensee Sharpfibre, who worked mainly engineering hours due to the close proximity of the tracks. Towns-Wadey completed the fire protection package for the lift shafts and oversaw the installation of 350 square metres of double-skinned Promat DURASTEEL[®] walls to the two lift shafts, providing one-hour fire protection. The four lifts are fixed through the Promat DURASTEEL[®] to the steel structure, using Promat DURASTEEL[®] clad brackets.

"Durasteel does the job," says James Wraight. "It's approved, it's great for fire integrity purposes and it's a very versatile product. We're happy with it, and the high calibre service from Promat."

Promat**Editors' Notes**

Promat UK Limited is the UK's only dedicated manufacturer of passive fire protection products and systems. As well as Promat DURASTEEL® barrier systems, Promat's product portfolio includes high performance calcium silicate boards Promat SUPALUX®, Promat MASTERBOARD® and Promat VERMICULUX®, as well as the Promat PROMASEAL® range of fire-stopping products.

The company is renowned for its technical expertise and draws upon the resources of a worldwide research and development network and over 50 years experience in passive fire protection. Promat is subsidiary of Etex, the Belgian building materials group present in over 40 countries.

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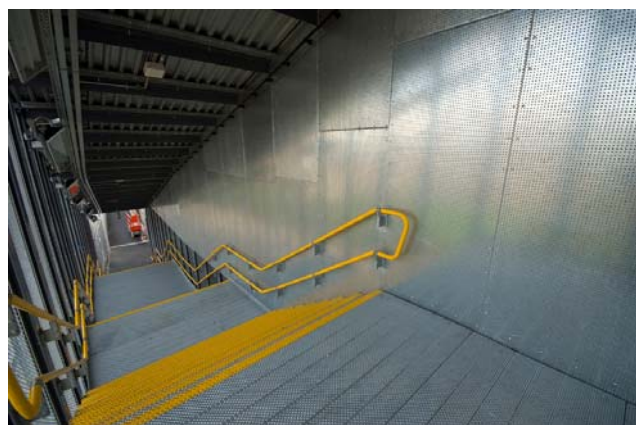
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