

Combustible Facade Evaluation



- On-site facade investigation with an integrated team of fire protection and building enclosure experts
- Project documentation review
- Code compliance review
- Comprehensive fire safety/risk analysis
- Development of mitigation strategy
- Design/peer review for new construction
- Laboratory testing and analysis
- Material identification and classification
- Life safety risk mitigation planning
- Loss investigation and litigation support
- Fire protection system testing and analysis

The fire safety of facades has come into additional focus following several devastating high-rise building fires around the world. For existing structures, materials and construction methods are often unknown, leaving unanswered questions about the fire safety of an occupied building. WJE is capable of analyzing existing conditions and testing facade materials to determine whether the exterior wall construction includes combustible materials. If so, WJE can determine how the safety of the building is affected and develop practical solutions for resolution.

In addition to air, water, and thermal issues—common concerns for the overall health and safety of building occupants—the fire resistance and flame spread characteristics of exterior wall assemblies must be considered in building design. WJE fire protection engineers, architects, and materials scientists employ an integrated team approach and bring cutting-edge technology to fire safety, working with clients to find the appropriate solution for their building enclosure issues.

The fire safety risks posed by potentially combustible facades may be mitigated without the need for complete removal and replacement of the exterior cladding. Materials can be tested and identified to assist in creating a comprehensive life safety plan, using new technologies as part of the approach. WJE performs detailed and comprehensive analyses of the materials, systems, operations, and maintenance practices in existing buildings to develop sound fire protection strategies. WJE professionals are also experienced in evaluating the performance and suitability of curtain wall assemblies for mitigating fire spread in new construction.

