



## EPS No.1001

**Subject: Understanding Thermal Design Terms**

**Date: January 2008 (Revised February 2015)**

### R-value (Thermal Resistance)

R-value, or thermal resistance, is a measure of a material's or a construction's ability to retard heat flow. A higher R-value provides better thermal insulation performance. R-values of materials in series can be added to determine a construction's total thermal resistance.

Although not normally written, the units of R-values are  $\frac{\text{hr}\cdot\text{ft}^2\cdot^\circ\text{F}}{\text{Btu}}$  or  $\frac{\text{m}^2\cdot^\circ\text{C}}{\text{W}}$

### U-value (Thermal Transmittance)

U-value is a measure of a material's or a construction's ability to allow heat to pass through itself. A lower U-value provides better thermal insulation performance. It is the reciprocal of a construction's R-value.

U-values include air film resistances. The units of U-value are  $\frac{\text{Btu}}{\text{hr}\cdot\text{ft}^2\cdot^\circ\text{F}}$  or  $\frac{\text{W}}{\text{m}^2\cdot^\circ\text{C}}$

### C-value (Thermal Conductance)

C-value is a measure of a material's or a construction's ability to allow heat to pass through itself. It is the same as U-value but without air film resistances. A lower C-value provides better thermal insulation performance.

The units of C-values, just like U-values, are  $\frac{\text{Btu}}{\text{hr}\cdot\text{ft}^2\cdot^\circ\text{F}}$  or  $\frac{\text{W}}{\text{m}^2\cdot^\circ\text{C}}$

### K-value (Thermal Conductivity)

K-value is a measure of a homogeneous material's ability to allow heat to pass through itself, independent of its thickness. A lower K-value provides better thermal insulation performance. If we multiply a material's C-value by its thickness, we have its K-value.

$$K = \frac{1}{R} \cdot t = \frac{t}{R}$$

The units of K-value are  $\frac{\text{Btu}\cdot\text{in}}{\text{hr}\cdot\text{ft}^2\cdot^\circ\text{F}}$  or  $\frac{\text{W}}{\text{m}^2\cdot^\circ\text{C}}$

Example

	Component R-value
Inside Air Film	0.7
1/2" Gypsum Wallboard	0.5
R-19 Fiberglass	19.0
1" Foam-Control 250	4.8
Wood Siding	0.8
Outside Air Film	0.2
-----	
Wall R-value	26.0

Using the example:

$$U = \frac{1}{R} = \frac{1}{26.0} = 0.038$$

From the example, the wall's R-value without air films is 26.0 minus 0.9 (0.7 + 0.2) or 25.1.

$$C = \frac{1}{R} = \frac{1}{25.1} = 0.040$$



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## EPS No.1002

**Subject: R-value and Long Term R-value - Background**

**Date: January 2008 (Revised February 2015)**

The blowing agents used in extruded polystyrene, polyisocyanurate, and polyurethane foams provide for an initial high R-value. During the life of the foam, air from the atmosphere diffuses into the cells of the foam and reduces the R-value. In addition, the blowing agents themselves diffuse out of the foam, further reducing the R-value.

Two test methods have been developed to help provide information and standardize the reporting of R-value for materials with blowing agents other than air. The following test methods have been developed:

- ASTM C1303 Standard Test Method for Predicting Long-Term Thermal Resistance of Closed-Cell Foam Insulation.
- CAN/ULC-S770 Standard Test Method for Determination of Long-Term Thermal Resistance of Closed-Cell Insulating Foams.

Both test methods provide a similar method to predict the Long Term Thermal Resistance (LTTR) or long term R-value of insulations.

Diffusion theory for gases establishes that the diffusion of gases in foam is mathematically dependent upon the thickness. Each of the methods involves cutting thin sections approximately 10 mm (3/8") from a sample of thicker insulation such as 100 mm (4"). Due to the relative size of the thin samples, diffusion of air into the foam and blowing agents out of the foam is quicker than for the original thick sample. The measurement of thermal resistance for the thin samples along with mathematical relations allows for the prediction of the LTTR or long term R-value. However, in each method long term is defined only as 5 years.

- ASTM C1303 excerpt: "The values produced by the Prescriptive Method correspond to the thermal resistance at an age of five years"
- CAN/ULC-S770 excerpt: "This procedure defines the long-term thermal resistance (LTTR) of a foam product as the value measured after 5-year storage..."

As noted above, the LTTR value commonly published from testing to ASTM C1303 or CAN/ULC-S770 is an prediction for the R-value of the insulation after 5 years.

Many insulation manufacturers are promoting LTTR without providing a clear understanding that LTTR is an prediction for the R-value of the material after only 5 years. The concept of a 5 year R-value being equal to the "time-weighted 15 year average" is also often used by Polyiso and XPS manufacturers. This approach assumes that the higher R-value established in years 1-4 is weighted by the inevitably lower R-value of the insulation in years 6-15.

Neither the 5 year R-value, nor the time-weighted 15 year average approach is appropriate for use in building design. This is due to the fact that the R-values of Polyiso and XPS continue to decline below the LTTR published 5 year numbers. Starting in year 5 and for the remaining life of the insulation, the R-values of Polyiso and XPS are below LTTR published R-values.

Most insulation users are interested in a true long-term thermal R-value for their insulations. A 50 year R-value is a more suitable long-term R-value for use in building design. The 50 year R-value can easily be determined using the existing protocol described in ASTM C1303 or CAN/ULC-S770.

**Specify a 50 year R-value for a reliable long-term R-value for building design.**



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## EPS No.1003

**Subject: R-Value and Long Term R-Value – Polyisocyanurate Insulation**

**Date: January 2008 (Revised February 2015)**

Manufacturers of Polyisocyanurate insulation are promoting the use of the long term R-value techniques in ASTM C1303 and CAN/ULC S770. The Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association, PIMA, is promoting using some form of time weighted average over 15 years<sup>1</sup>. Their literature states that “using techniques in ASTM C1303, CAN/ULC S770” provides the following long term R-values for some Polyisocyanurate insulations.

**The R-value published by polyisocyanurate insulation manufacturers is ONLY for 5 years.**

**The long term R-value for polyisocyanurate insulations is LOWER than that represented by the PIMA published information.**

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Polyiso Performs - PIMA (Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association) - 2002

Average LTTR Values for Polyiso with Hydrocarbon Blowing Agents <sup>1</sup>	
POLYISO THICKNESS (inches)	LTTR R-VALUE
1	6.0
2	12.1
3	18.5
4	25.0

The exact variations from the standard test methods are not described. As is well known, deviations from standard test methods make the results unreliable for comparison.

Although this is a step forward for the Polyisocyanurate insulation industry to recognize that estimates of long term R-value, the use of their ‘modified’ test method only allows for Polyisocyanurate insulation manufacturers to compare performance among Polyisocyanurate insulations. The use of the modified PIMA method DOES NOT provide for determination of a long term R-value, such as after 50 years. The PIMA method only provides for the determination of the R-value after 5 years.



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## EPS No.1004

**Subject:** Foam-Control - Mold in Houses

**Date:** January 2008

The building industry is continually learning about the growth of mold in homes. Homeowners and building professionals are concerned over the potential for mold growth and the impact on the living environment. This bulletin is designed to provide a basic overview of mold in structures.

Mold problems in structures are normally directly related to a moisture problem. Common moisture problems are the result of water leaks and/or the lack of attention to flashing and building details.

Molds are a type of fungi in the same family as mushrooms and yeasts. Molds need the right conditions to grow. This is typically a temperature between 40 and 100 degrees Fahrenheit and 20% moisture content in the product they are attacking. Thus, an area of a building with a water problem is an ideal environment for mold growth. Under warm and humid conditions, they can quickly multiply and spread over wall surfaces and building materials.

Molds are an essential part of the world with the function of breaking down the basic components of plants and other natural organic materials. The molds of concern to the building industry get their nutrients from the starches and sugars in wood and paper products.

Foam-Control EPS does not contain the starches or sugars as found in wood or paper products.

**Foam-Control EPS provides no nutrient value to plants, animals, or microorganisms. Therefore, bacteria and fungi (mold) do not multiply due to the presence of EPS.**

If a mold problem is encountered in a structure, a building professional should be consulted.



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## EPS No.1005

**Subject:** Foam-Control EPS Soundproofing

**Date:** January 2008

Design of wall, floor, or roof elements may require special attention to the sound transmission performance. Sound Transmission is measured by ASTM E-90, "Standard Test Method for Laboratory Measurement of Airborne Sound Transmission Loss of Building Partitions." The test measures the sound transmission loss for sound with frequencies from 125-4000 Hz. This range is the most important part of the hearing range. The results of the test are further classified into a Sound Transmission Class (STC) which is useful in comparing different building systems. The significance of STC ratings can be seen by a review of the following information on STC ratings.

### STC rating

25 Normal speech can be understood quite clearly.

30 Loud speech can be understood fairly well.

35 Loud speech audible but not intelligible.

42 Loud speech audible as a murmur

45 Must strain to hear loud speech.

48 Some loud speech barely audible

50 Loud speech not audible

The design of systems which have high STC ratings relies on passive absorption, barriers, and proper construction details.

### Passive Absorption

When sound passes through materials, the energy of the sound is reduced by absorption. Acoustically absorptive materials force sound to change directions many times and travel long distances before the sound passes through. Each time a sound wave changes direction, some energy of the sound wave is lost.

### Barriers

Since sound is a form of energy, barriers can be used to reduce sound transmission. An effective barrier has a high mass (weight and density) and a low resonant frequency to stop (or reflect) this energy.

### Construction Details

Building components designed to have a high STC rating rely on proper construction. It is critical that details must be followed to eliminate any cracks or air gaps. Sound will find its way through the smallest crack.

EPS can be used in the design of walls having specific STC ratings when constructed with various components, such as gypsum board, sound channels, and sound insulation. The use of EPS in sound walls should be verified by testing in accordance with ASTM E-90.



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## EPS No.1006

**Subject:** Low Temperature R-Values

**Date:** January 2008 (Revised February 2015)

The following chart has been assembled to aid in the design of Foam-Control EPS applications in low temperature conditions.

Product	Temperature			
	40°F (4.4°C)	25°F (-3.9°C)	0°F (-17.8°C)	-25°F (-31.7°C)
<b>FOAM CONTROL 100</b>	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.7
<b>FOAM CONTROL 130</b>	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.8
<b>FOAM CONTROL 150</b>	4.6	4.7	4.8	5.0
<b>FOAM CONTROL 250</b>	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.3



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## EPS No.1007

**Subject:** Foam-Control EPS - Testing for Mold Resistance

**Date:** January 2008

Foam-Control EPS was subjected to accelerated moisture/mold exposure testing to gauge its degree of mold resistance. Testing was based upon ASTM D3273-00, "Standard Test Method for Resistance to Growth of Mold on the Surface of Interior Coatings in an Environmental Chamber." This testing involves exposing the Foam-Control EPS to mold in an high humidity environment, approximately 90%

RH. In addition to the testing of Foam-Control EPS sample, samples of southern yellow pine were tested as a control. At the end of the 3 month test, the growth of mold (*Trichoderma* and *Aspergillus*) was obvious on the southern yellow pine. NO mold growth was present on the Foam-Control EPS. Please also refer to Technical Bulletin eps. no 1004.



**Southern Yellow Pine  
with Mold Growth**

**Foam-Control EPS  
with NO Mold Growth**



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## EPS No.1009

**Subject:** Foam-Control EPS - Building Green and LEED Credits

**Date:** January 2008 (Revised February 2015)

The United States Green Building Council (USGBC) publishes the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system. The latest LEED, version v4, includes new market sector adaptations for data centers, warehouses and distribution centers, hospital-ity, existing schools, existing retail and mid-rise residen-tial projects

LEED v4 establishes requirements for design compo-nents that impact sustainable design. Credits or points are earned for meeting specific milestones in various categories. These categories include Location and Transportation (LT), Sustainable Sites (SS), Water Ef-ficiency WE), Energy and Atmosphere (EA), Mater-ials and Resources (MR), Indoor Environmental Qual-ity (EQ) , Innovation (IN), and Regional Priority (RP). A minimum number of available points are required to achieve a LEED Certified rating. Silver, Gold, and Plati-num levels are also available by meeting higher point thresholds.

Foam-Control EPS is an ideal insulation choice for inclu-sion into LEED certified building designs. The key ben-efit of using Foam-Control EPS is a reduction in energy consumption.

The following are the key categories associated with the use of Foam-Control EPS in LEED certified building.

### **Energy & Atmosphere**

#### *Minimum Energy Performance*

Foam-Control EPS helps reduce the environmental and economic harms of excessive energy use by achieving a minimum level of energy efficiency for the building and its systems.  
(required)

#### *Optimized Energy Performance*

Foam-Control EPS is a key building envelope compo-nent to achieve increasing levels of energy performance beyond the prerequisite standard to reduce environ-mental and economic harms associated with excessive energy use.  
(up to 20 points)



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## EPS No.1010

**Subject:** ASTM Standard and Foam-Control EPS

**Date:** January 2008 (Revised February 2015)

Foam-Control EPS (expanded polystyrene) is a rigid cellular polystyrene material that is used for building insulation, geotechnical applications (geofoam), as a component of structural insulated panels, as a component of exterior insulation finish systems, and a number of other applications. EPS in each of these end use applications requires different performance properties upon which a product selection would be made.

In order to promote uniformity of specification for expanded polystyrene in these various applications, ASTM has developed multiple standard specifications for EPS. This bulletin describes the three main ASTM standard specifications that cover expanded polystyrene.

### **ASTM C 578 Standard Specification for Rigid, Cellular Polystyrene Thermal Insulation**

ASTM C 578 is the standard that is referenced in the design and applicability of EPS materials for general insulation needs. This specification covers the types, physical properties, and dimensions of cellular polystyrene intended for use as thermal insulation.

Foam-Control EPS is available in 7 different "Types" as specified in ASTM C 578. These are Type XI, I, VIII, II, IX, XIV, and XV. In addition to thermal properties, such as R-value; physical properties such as compressive resistance, flexural strength, water vapor permeance, and water absorption are requirements of ASTM C578. The performance requirements for the various Types of Foam-Control EPS can be seen in the tables attached to this bulletin.

### **ASTM D 2430 Standard Specification For Expanded Polystyrene ("EPS") Thermal Insulation Boards For Use In Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems ("EIFS")**

ASTM D2430 is a standard for EPS boards used in Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems ("EIFS"). The specification covers requirements for board dimensions and manufacturing requirement specific to the EIFS industry. The boards are specified to be 2' in width and 4' in length, the standard size required for the EIFS industry. Boards in compliance with ASTM D 2430 must fully comply with the Type I re-

quirements of ASTM C 578. No additional material properties are required by ASTM D 2430. Thus, the Type I referenced properties from ASTM C 578 are applicable to EPS manufactured in conformance with ASTM D 2430.

### **ASTM D 6817 Standard Specification for Rigid Cellular Polystyrene Geofoam**

The title for ASTM D6817 is clear that this specification is for Geofoam applications. Geofoam is the commonly accepted term for lightweight foam materials used in geotechnical applications. ASTM D6817 specifically defines geofoam as a "block or planar rigid cellular foam polymeric material used in geotechnical engineering applications." ASTM D 6817 is the definitive standard that should be referenced in the design and applicability of EPS materials for geotechnical applications. This specification covers the types and physical properties of cellular polystyrene intended for use as Geofoam.

Foam-Control EPS Geofoam is available in 7 different "Types" as specified in ASTM D6817. These are Type EPS12, EPS15, EPS19, EPS22, EPS29, EPS39, and EPS46. The key material property specified by ASTM D 6817 is the compressive resistance at 1% deformation. This is the normally accepted design load for geofoam.

In addition to compressive resistance at 1% deformation, compression resistance at 5% and 10% is also available. The compression resistance at these higher percentage of compression are applicable to the very specific design and use of EPS in compressible application. Flexural strength, a key quality control measure, is also included. The performance requirements for the various Types of Foam-Control EPS Geofoam are shown in the tables attached to this bulletin. Please also refer to Foam-Control EPS Geofoam technical bulletin no. 5001.

The standards referenced in this bulletin are copyrighted by ASTM. If you require of any of the above reference standards, please visit ASTM at their website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org) to purchase a copy.



<b>Foam-Control EPS Insulation Properties</b>									
Product			<b>FOAM CONTROL</b> <b>50</b>	<b>FOAM CONTROL</b> <b>100</b>	<b>FOAM CONTROL</b> <b>130</b>	<b>FOAM CONTROL</b> <b>150</b>	<b>FOAM CONTROL</b> <b>250</b>	<b>FOAM CONTROL</b> <b>400</b>	<b>FOAM CONTROL</b> <b>600</b>
		Compressive Strength <sup>1,2</sup> @ 10% deformation, min. ASTM D1621	psi (kPa)	5 (35)	10 (69)	13 (90)	15 (104)	25 (173)	40 (276)
R-value <sup>1</sup> , Thermal Resistance, per inch, ASTM C518	25°F	°F·ft <sup>2</sup> ·h/Btu (°K·m <sup>2</sup> /W)	3.6 (0.63)	4.4 (0.77)	4.5 (0.80)	4.8 (0.84)	5.0 (0.88)	5.0 (0.88)	5.1 (0.90)
	40°F	°F·ft <sup>2</sup> ·h/Btu (°K·m <sup>2</sup> /W)	3.4 (0.60)	4.2 (0.73)	4.3 (0.75)	4.6 (0.80)	4.8 (0.84)	4.8 (0.84)	4.9 (0.86)
	75°F	°F·ft <sup>2</sup> ·h/Btu (°K·m <sup>2</sup> /W)	3.2 (0.56)	3.9 (0.68)	3.9 (0.69)	4.2 (0.73)	4.4 (0.77)	4.4 (0.77)	4.5 (0.78)
Density, Nominal ASTM C303	lb/ft <sup>3</sup> (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.75 (12)	1.0 (16)	1.25 (20)	1.5 (24)	2.0 (32)	2.5 (40)	3.0 (48)	
Flexural Strength <sup>1</sup> , min. ASTM C203	psi (kPa)	10 (69)	25 (173)	30 (208)	35 (242)	50 (345)	60 (414)	75 (517)	
Water Vapor Permeance <sup>1</sup> of 1.0 in. thickness, max., perm ASTM E96		5.0	5.0	3.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	
Water Absorption <sup>1</sup> by total immersion, max., volume % ASTM C272		4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	
Flame Spread ASTM E84		<25	<25	<25	<25	<25	<25	<25	
Smoke Developed ASTM E84		<450	<450	<450	<450	<450	<450	<450	
ASTM C578 Compliance, Type		XI	I	VIII	II	IX	XIV	XV	

<sup>1</sup> Please refer to ASTM C578 specification for complete information.

<sup>2</sup> Compressive strength is measured at 10 percent in accordance with ASTM C578. A safety factor is required to prevent long-term creep for sustained loads. For static loads, a safety factor of 3:1 is recommended.

<b>Foam-Control EPS Geofoam Properties</b>							
Property		ASTM D6817					
		<b>EPS12</b>	<b>EPS15</b>	<b>EPS19</b>	<b>EPS22</b>	<b>EPS29</b>	<b>EPS39</b>
Density <sup>1</sup> , min.	lb/ft <sup>3</sup> (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.70 (11.2)	0.90 (14.4)	1.15 (18.4)	1.35 (21.6)	1.80 (28.8)	2.40 (38.4)
Compressive Resistance <sup>1</sup> @ 1% deformation, min.	psi psf (kPa)	2.2 320 (15)	3.6 520 (25)	5.8 840 (40)	7.3 1050 (50)	10.9 1570 (75)	15.0 2160 (103)
Elastic Modulus <sup>1</sup> , min	psi (kPa)	220 (1500)	360 (2500)	580 (4000)	730 (5000)	1090 (7500)	1500 (10300)
Flexural Strength <sup>1</sup> , min.	psi (kPa)	10.0 (69)	25.0 (172)	30.0 (207)	40.0 (276)	50.0 (345)	60.0 (414)
Water Absorption <sup>1</sup> by total immersion, max.,	volume %	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.0
Oxygen Index <sup>1</sup> , min.	volume %	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0
Bouyancy Force	lb/ft <sup>3</sup> (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	61.7 (990)	61.5 (980)	61.3 (980)	61.1 (980)	60.6 (970)	60.0 (960)
<b>Additional Properties for Compressible Applications</b>							
Compressive Resistance <sup>1</sup> @ 5% deformation, min.	psi psf (kPa)	5.1 730 (35)	8.0 1150 (55)	13.1 1890 (90)	16.7 2400 (115)	24.7 3560 (170)	35.0 5040 (241)
Compressive Resistance <sup>1</sup> @ 10% deformation, min.	psi psf (kPa)	5.8 840 (40)	10.2 1470 (70)	16.0 2300 (110)	19.6 2820 (135)	29.0 4180 (200)	40.0 5760 (276)

<sup>1</sup> See ASTM D6817 Standard for test methods and complete information



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## EPS No.1013

**Subject: Environmental Cycling**

**Date: April 2008 (Revised February 2015)**

Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) has a proven track record of performance in below grade applications. EPS is a closed cell material with excellent resistance to moisture, freeze-thaw cycles, and the rigors of below grade use.

The successful performance of EPS insulation used as below-grade insulation material has been demonstrated by a two-year exposure to a below-grade foundation application<sup>1</sup>. Key performance issues highlighted during the project were:




- The EPS insulation was directly exposed to high moisture content soil conditions; however, the moisture content after the two-year exposure period was found to be less than 0.5% by volume on average.
- The in-situ thermal performance of the EPS insulation was monitored over the two-year exposure period and found to remain constant - i.e., there was no loss in thermal resistance value exhibited based upon field monitoring.
- Samples taken from the field exposure were subjected to laboratory testing to confirm thermal performance and durability. Test results indicated there was no change in material properties after the two-year field exposure.
- The research project included development of a durability test protocol to provide a means of assessing performance of all types of insulation subjected to extreme thermal gradient and environmental cycling. Testing confirmed that all types of EPS insulation retained their specified material properties even after being subjected to freeze-thaw cycling.

The below-grade research<sup>1</sup> led to the development of ASTM C1512, "Standard Test Method for Characterizing the Effect of Exposure to Environmental Cycling on Thermal Performance of Insulation Products". This standard provides a laboratory method to characterize the performance of insulations used in below grade applications.

The method exposes test specimens initially to moisture for 28 days to intentionally increase moisture content.

After this period, the samples are exposed to freeze-thaw cycles. The specimens divide two environments during the freeze-thaw cycling: 75°F 90%RH and an environment that cycles every 12 hours between 5°F and 60°F for 20 days. This exposure simulates the performance of building insulation in cold climates. The 75°F is similar to the interior of the building and the cycling between 5°F and 60°F is to simulate the changing exterior environment.

Foam-Control 100, 150, and 250 samples have been tested in accordance with ASTM C1512<sup>2</sup>. The samples were tested for compressive strength and thermal resistance (R-value) before and after the environmental cycling. The moisture condition was also measured after the cycling.

AFTER ASTM C1512 Environmental Cycling			
EPS Type	Compressive Strength, psi.	R-value, °F-ft <sup>2</sup> -h/btu	Moisture Content, volume %
	13.7	3.7	2.7
	21.6	4.0	1.7
	32.0	4.4	1.6

After testing, the compressive strength and R-value for the EPS samples still meet the requirement of ASTM C578, "Standard Specification for Rigid, Cellular Polystyrene Thermal Insulation". In addition the moisture contents are below the values for moisture absorption presented in ASTM C578.

**The ASTM C1512 test results clearly show that EPS samples are not affected by the type of environmental conditions that is typical of building insulation.**



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<sup>1</sup>Research program conducted by the National Research Council of Canada/Expanded Polystyrene Association of Canada and the Expanded Polystyrene Industry Alliance.

<sup>2</sup>Research conducted by the Expanded Polystyrene Industry Alliance.





## EPS No.1015

**Subject:** Foam-Control EPS Properties - Shear and Tensile Strength

**Date:** September 2008 (Revised February 2015)

Foam-Control EPS insulation is manufactured in compliance with ASTM C578, "Standard Specification for Rigid, Cellular Polystyrene Thermal Insulation". This standard covers the minimum requirements for flexural strength, compressive strength, and other physical properties of EPS foam. Some engineered systems such as Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs), insulated concrete forms (ICF's) and exterior insulation and finish systems rely on Foam-Control EPS as a key component to resist shear and/or tensile loads.

Foam-Control has conducted extensive tests to determine the shear strength and tensile strength of Foam-Control EPS. Shear strength of Foam-Control EPS was evaluated in accordance with ASTM C273, "Standard Test Method for Shear Properties of Sandwich Core Materials". Tensile strength was evaluated in accordance with ASTM C297, "Standard Test Method for Flatwise Tensile Strength of Sandwich Constructions".

Property		Foam-Control EPS Product					
Shear Strength, min. ASTM C273	psi (kPa)	12 (83)	15.5 (107)	18 (124)	24 (166)	30 (208)	35 (242)
Tensile Strength, min. ASTM C297	psi (kPa)	20 (138)	25 (173)	30 (208)	40 (276)	50 (345)	60 (414)

**Note:** The values are based upon testing Foam-Control EPS at laboratory conditions (72F/50%RH) under short term load durations as specified by the ASTM test methods.



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## EPS No.1016

**Subject: Water Absorption**

**Date: October 2008 (Revised June 2012)**

Architects, Engineers, Contractors, and Building Owners are all concerned with the performance of their insulation. The long term performance of insulation is critical to ensuring the energy savings the insulation was specified to provide.

Foam-Control EPS has been subjected to a 15 year moisture absorption study to demonstrate the performance of EPS in a below grade application. The basic premise of the study was that Foam-Control EPS be subjected to a real world application and not a short term laboratory test.

Samples of Foam-Control EPS were installed as perimeter below grade insulation on a building in St. Paul, MN. The insulation was placed below grade in 1993 (15 years of exposure as vertical wall insulation separating the heated building foundation from soil). Samples were removed from the exterior foundation of a the St. Paul, MN building in the summer of 2008 (see Figures 1 and 2).

In addition to the removal of the Foam-Control EPS samples, extruded polystyrene (XPS) samples were removed. The XPS samples were immediately adjacent to the Foam-Control EPS and were also on the foundation wall for 15 years (see Figure 3). At the time of excavation the soil in contact with the insulation was dry and no abnormal conditions were observed.

The samples were brushed clean (see Figure 4) and tested immediately upon removal from the foundation wall for R-value. The results of the R-value testing at the time of removal and after an additional 28 days of conditioning at 72F/50% RH are shown in Table 1. In addition to R-value, the water absorption of the samples was measured and are shown in Table 2.

**Table 1**

Thermal Resistance		
Sample	R-Value/in. upon removal	Conditioned <sup>1</sup> R-Value/in.
EPS	3.4	3.7
XPS	2.6	2.8

<sup>1</sup>Four weeks after removal and in a laboratory at 72° F, 50% RH conditioning.

**Table 2**

Moisture Content		
Sample	Moisture Content volume% upon removal	Conditioned <sup>1</sup> Moisture Content volume%
EPS	4.8	0.7
XPS	18.9	15.7

<sup>1</sup>Four weeks after removal and in a laboratory at 72° F, 50% RH conditioning.

The results of the independent testing are dramatic. The EPS insulation maintained 94% of its stated R-value of 3.6 after the 15 year time period and had a moisture content of 4.8%. However, the XPS retained only 52% of its stated R-value of 5.0. The loss in R-value for the XPS is quite dramatic and can be explained very simply by the 18.9% of moisture absorption over the 15 years of use.

It is apparent that moisture that migrates through the soil, insulation, and foundation system is trapped in the cell structure of XPS. In contrast to the XPS, EPS is maintaining an equilibrium condition with the adjacent soil and is not accumulating water over the life of the building.

A letter from Stork Testing concerning this testing is attached to this bulletin.



**Figure 1. Excavation of insulation samples after 15 years**



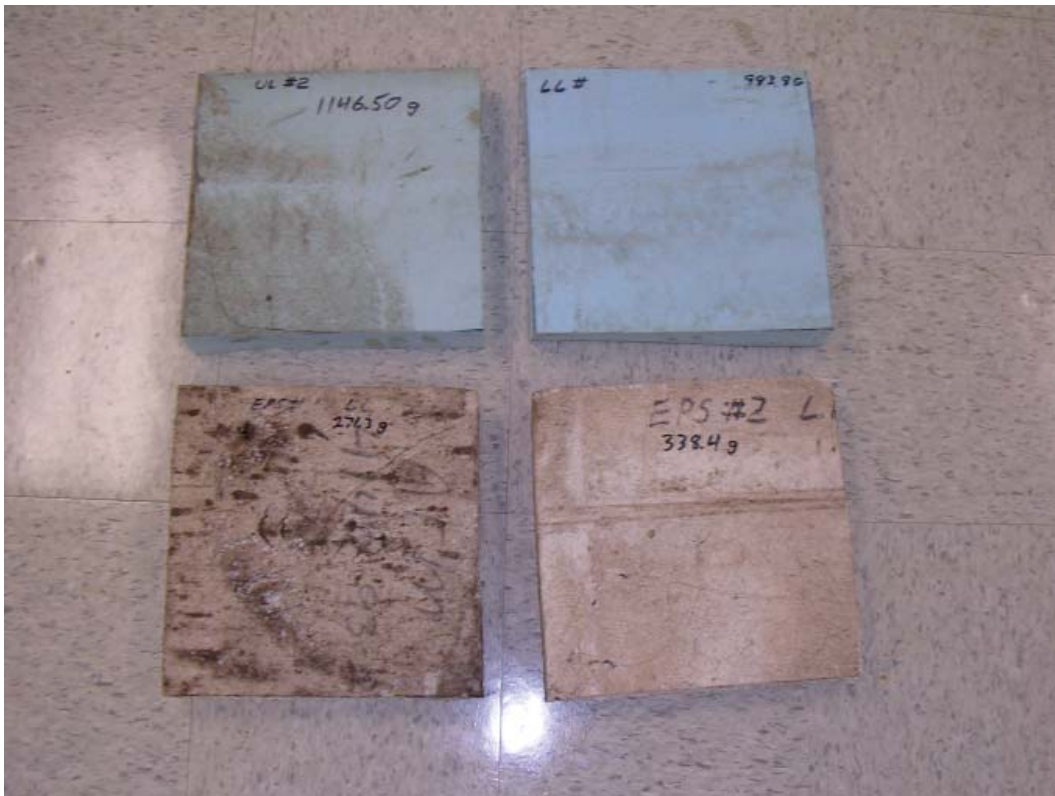
**Figure 2. XPS and EPS below grade insulation**



Figure 3. XPS and EPS were installed adjacent to each other



Figure 4. Samples cleaned and ready for testing



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November 14, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

Stork Twin City Testing has recently completed below grade insulation testing for AFM Corporation of Burnsville, MN. The results from the testing are documented in a Stork project report 95863.5 dated October 31, 2008 provided to AFM Corporation.

Stork has reviewed the Foam-Control EPS Water Absorption Facts literature provided by AFM Corporation with control number FC09 dated 10/08 and the Foam-Control EPS Technical Bulletin no. EPS 1016 dated October 2008. The results tabulated in these publications are consistent with the results contained in the proprietary report prepared by Stork for AFM Corporation.

Stork has no comment, implied or otherwise, on the other claims contained in the above reference publications.

Regards,



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Advanced Materials Dept. Mgr.  
Stork Twin City Testing  
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## EPS No.1017

**Subject:** Foam-Control EPS and Environmental Payback

**Date:** November 2008

Foam-Control EPS has long been recognized as a leader in the foam insulation industry with respect to environmental benefits. Foam-Control EPS helps make your construction projects environmentally friendly.

- Lower energy consumption reduces carbon dioxide emissions.
- Is inert and stable.
- Does not produce contaminating leachates.
- Has never contained CFC, HCFC or HFC, all of which are harmful to the earth's ozone layer.
- 100% recyclable.

A recent study by the American Plastic Council confirms the environmental benefits of using EPS insulation on typical wood frame construction. The study consisted on analyzing the energy savings resulting from the application of insulation and comparing this against the energy used to produce the insulation. A comparison of these values provides a time period in which the environmental impact of producing the insulation is paid back by the energy savings.

**The energy payback from the installation of insulation is under 2 years.**

An executive summary of the study is attached for reference.



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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS SAVINGS USING RIGID FOAM SHEATHING OR SPRAY FOAM APPLIED TO EXTERIOR WALLS OF SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL HOUSING IN THE U.S. AND CANADA**

**Prepared for  
American Plastics Council  
Washington, DC**

**By  
FRANKLIN ASSOCIATES  
*A Division of ERG***

May 16, 2008

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This analysis is a case study that examines energy savings and subsequent greenhouse gas emission reductions resulting from the addition of rigid plastic foam or spray foam sheathing to the exterior walls of single family housing in the United States and Canada. The widespread use of rigid plastic foam sheathing and, more recently, spray foam sheathing on exterior walls has become common in new housing construction. Energy conservation awareness was first recognized in the energy crisis of the 1970's. However, in the past 5 years, energy conservation has again become a very high priority for most North Americans.

Foam insulation possesses excellent structural and insulating characteristics and is considered to be cost effective by most homebuilders today. Its use significantly increases the insulation R-value of walls and therefore saves energy and reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

#### **GOAL/SCOPE**

Four foam insulations were considered in this analysis – Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) boardstock foam, Polyurethane (PUR) foam sprayed in place, Extruded Polystyrene (XPS) boardstock foam and Polyisocyanurate (PIR) boardstock foam. The goal of this analysis is not to focus on each insulation type individually, but to show that the use of these foam insulations in residential housing provides an offset to the energy use and greenhouse gas emissions associated with their production.

An average size U.S. new construction house in 2006 was just under 2,500 square feet, and had 2,006 square feet of wall area. Typical building practices were wood frame construction with fiberglass batt insulation and wood siding. Energy savings were modeled between this house and one with 1 inch of foam sheathing under the wood siding. Only savings due to thermal conduction were included. Additional savings due to the air and vapor barrier qualities of the foam insulations are not calculated; therefore the final results are likely lower than actual energy savings.

## RESULTS

The range of total energy requirements for producing the foam insulations for use in the U.S. are shown in the following table, along with the payback time and total energy savings over 50 years. The foams do not all have the same production energy requirements or the same payback time. Averaged across the entire country, however, every foam pays back the energy required for production in one to two years; over the assumed 50 year lifespan, more than 320 million Btu's of energy are saved in an average home.

### ENERGY SAVINGS FROM USING EXTERIOR FOAM SHEATHING ON A U.S. AVERAGE 2006 NEW CONSTRUCTION HOUSE\*

	<u>Energy (Million Btu)</u>
<b>Energy Savings</b>	
<b>Annual</b>	6.5 - 9.0
<b>50 years</b>	323 – 451
<b>Foam Production Energy</b>	7.41 - 14.0
<b>Energy Payback (years)</b>	1.15 - 1.79*

---

\*National average of climate

The two main sources of greenhouse gases are fossil fuel combustion and the release of certain blowing agents. When the global warming potential of these blowing agents was not included, the greenhouse gas savings align with the energy savings. Payback times are slightly shorter for greenhouse gases than for energy – less than 1.5 years for a U.S. average. Although they make up only a small percentage of the weight of the foam insulation, the blowing agents will be entirely released to the atmosphere over the lifetime of the foam. Today, the effect of some blowing agents increases the greenhouse gas payback time significantly. In 2010, when the use of some blowing agents with high global warming potentials (GWP) will be restricted by Title IV of the Clean Air Act and as insulation producers shift to blowing agents that have lower global warming potential (GWP) than current blowing agents, the GHG payback time will decrease correspondingly.

Although Canadian results were included in the full report, they are not included in this Executive Summary. Results for Canadian homes do not differ significantly from those in the U.S. and show an energy payback of one to two years.



## EPS No.1018

**Subject: Long Term Performance of EPS - 30 Year Old Field Samples**


**Date: February 2009 (Revised February 2015)**

The R-value of insulation over a service life of 50 years is a critical factor to consider when specifying an insulation product today. Insulation should be selected and designed based upon its warranted R-value at an age of at least 50 years old to ensure that energy savings calculations can be relied upon for the life of the structure.

Foam-Control EPS is manufactured by a process in which the R-value for the insulation is stable for the life of the product. Foam-Control EPS is warranted to maintain its R-value for 50 years.

Some foam plastic insulation board manufacturers provide an estimate of thermal resistance due to the fact that their products outgas blowing agents and as a result lose R-value over time. The test procedure used by these manufacturers for estimating R-value is often called LTTR or long term thermal resistance. LTTR provides an estimate of R-value after 5 years and not the future R-value. Therefore, **it is essential to specify the actual R-value of an insulation after 50 years of service life.** Also, you must specify that the insulation manufacturer provide a copy of their warranty to ensure they warrant of the R-value of their insulation for 50 years.

In the fall of 2008, a church school in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin was re-roofed to replace an aging 30 year old roof membrane. EPS was used for insulation at the time of the original installation. Random samples of the 30 year old EPS were selected and sent to a third party independent test laboratory to determine the R-value of the EPS that was removed from the building.

EPS Properties				
	Density lb/ft <sup>3</sup>	R-Value @ 75 °F °F.ft <sup>2</sup> .h/Btu	Compressive Strength @ 10% strain, psi	Flexural Strength, psi
<b>30 Year Old</b>  <b>Samples</b>	0.91	4.0	11.2	32.5
<b>ASTM C578</b> <b>Type I min.</b> <b>Requirement</b>	0.90	3.6	10.0	25.0

Independent testing has confirmed that Foam-Control 100, even after working on a roof for 30 years, still maintains its original claimed R-value. The R-value of the 30 year old Foam-Control 100 exceeds the minimum R-value requirement of ASTM C578. Other foam board insulations which lose blowing agents over time would not be able to meet their LTTR R-value after 30 years.

In addition to R-value, the 30 year old Foam-Control 100 samples were tested to determine their compressive and flexural strength. Again, the 30 year old Foam-Control 100 samples exceeded the minimum physical properties stated in the ASTM C578 standard.

A copy of the Thermal Resistance Testing of the Foam-Control 100 (Type I EPS) Insulation from Stork Testing is attached to this bulletin.



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**JOB NUMBER:** 30160 08-99583  
**PAGE:** 1 of 3  
**DATE:** October 7, 2008

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Geotechnical  
Failure Analysis  
Materials Testing

Construction Materials  
Product Evaluation  
Welder Qualification

**THERMAL RESISTANCE TESTING  
OF  
TYPE I EPS INSULATION**

**Prepared for:  
AFM Corporation  
Attn: Dr. Todd Bergstrom  
211 South River Ridge Circle  
Suite 102A  
Burnsville, MN 55337-1699**

**Prepared By:**



**Steven R. Miller  
Laboratory Supervisor  
Product Evaluation Department**

**Reviewed By:**



**William Stegeman  
Advanced Materials Dept. Mgr.  
Phone: 651-659-7230**

The test results contained in this report pertain only to the samples submitted for testing and not necessarily to all similar products.

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Stork Twin City Testing Corporation is an operating unit of Stork Materials Technology B.V., Amsterdam, The Netherlands, which is a member of the Stork Group

**JOB NUMBER:** 30160 08-99583

**PAGE:** 2 of 3

**DATE:** October 7, 2008

**THERMAL RESISTANCE TESTING OF TYPE I EPS INSULATION**

**INTRODUCTION:**

This report presents the results of Thermal Resistance Tests conducted on samples of Type I EPS Insulation. The testing was authorized by Dr. Todd Bergstrom of AFM Corporation on October 1, 2008. The testing and data analysis were completed on October 6, 2008.

The scope of our work was limited to conducting thermal resistance tests on the samples submitted and reporting the results.

**SUMMARY OF RESULTS:**

Thermal Resistance

Sample	R Value
# 1	3.96
# 2	3.94

**SAMPLE IDENTIFICATION:**

The samples were identified as Type I EPS supplied by M.W. Tighe Roofing of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. The samples were reported to be removed from Sacred Heart Catholic School of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin on September 17, 2008. The material was reported to be installed originally during 1978.

**TEST METHOD:**

The specimen was allowed to condition at standard laboratory conditions of 72 ± 4°F and 50 ± 5% relative humidity for at least 40 hours prior to testing. The thermal resistance testing was conducted using ASTM Standard C518-04, "Standard Test Method for Steady-State Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Heat Flow Meter Apparatus" as a procedural guide. The specimen was placed in a Netzsch Heat Flow Meter; model HFM 436/3/1 ER. Steady-state heat flux measurements were made at a mean temperature of approximately 75°F using a hot face temperature of approximately 100°F and a cold face temperature of approximately 50°F. Specimen thermal resistance and thermal conductivity were determined by comparing the heat flux measurements of the specimen to measurements made on a known Standard Reference Material. Resistance values obtained from the Heat Flow Meter are best utilized for homogenous specimens.

Test Method	Test Method Title	Deviations from Method
ASTM C518-04	Standard Test Method for Steady-State Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Heat Flow Meter Apparatus	None

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3 of 3

**DATE:**

October 7, 2008

**CALIBRATED TEST EQUIPMENT:**

Netsch Heat Flow Meter, model HFM 436/3/1 ER, S# 284A-1107-606000788, calibrated 12/07  
 Mitutoyo Calipers, model 505-645-50, ID MM160-008, calibrated 9/08  
 Mitutoyo Digimatic Indicator, MM160-083, calibrated 11/07  
 Sartorius Balance, MM170-004, calibrated 7/08

**UNCALIBRATED TEST EQUIPMENT:**

Neslab Chiller, model RTE-110, S# 89CML91040-7

**TEST DATA:**

Parameter	Sample # 1	Sample #2
Thickness, in	1.031	1.021
Density lbs/ft <sup>3</sup>	0.91	0.91
<b>TEST CONDITIONS:</b>		
Temperature Gradient °F/in	48.27	48.59
Mean Temperature, °F	74.95	74.08
Temperature Range, °F	49.75	49.63
<b>RESULTS:</b>		
Thermal Conductivity, Btu·in/(h·ft <sup>2</sup> ·°F)	0.260	0.260
Thermal Conductance, Btu/(h·ft <sup>2</sup> ·°F)	0.253	0.254
Thermal Resistivity, °F·ft <sup>2</sup> ·h/Btu/in	3.84	3.85
Thermal Resistance, °F·ft <sup>2</sup> ·h/Btu	3.96	3.94

**REMARKS:**

The test materials will be retained for 14 days from the date of this report and then discarded unless we receive written notification requesting otherwise.

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## EPS No.1019

**Subject:** Foam-Control EPS and Fire Retardants

**Date:** March 2009 (Revised February 2015)

Foam-Control EPS is a key component to help reduce the use of energy in buildings. The energy reduction from using Foam-Control EPS translates into important savings of carbon dioxide emissions to the environment over the entire life of the building. Foam-Control EPS is recognized to achieve Green Building initiatives when used in foundation, wall, and roof insulation systems.

In addition to important energy reduction, compliance with fire and life safety is a first priority issue when using Foam-Control EPS. The use of foam plastic insulation in buildings is regulated by building codes across North America. The most widely adopted building code is the International Building Code (IBC) published by the International Code Council (ICC). The IBC provides a series of requirements for the use of materials in buildings. For foam plastics, the typical requirements are:

1. The packages and containers display a third party (approved agency) label showing compliance with IBC requirements.
2. The foam plastic shall have a flame spread index of not more than 75 and a smoke-developed index of not more than 450 where tested in the maximum thickness for use in accordance with ASTM E84.
3. The foam plastic is separated from the interior of the building with 1/2" gypsum board.

EPS can be manufactured without flame retardants, but the resulting product would not meet the fire performance required by the IBC. The use of a flame retardant in EPS is essential to ensure compliance with the IBC, provide for a safe building environment, and to protect lives and property from the risk of fire. **Foam-Control EPS is always manufactured with flame retardants to ensure compliance with the fire requirements of the IBC.**

Hexabromocyclododecane or simply "HBCD" is the fire retardant historically used in EPS.

However, significant research has been conducted by the EPS industry to evaluate alternatives to HBCD in EPS. The industry is now transitioning to an alternative polymeric product that significantly reduces the potential impact on the environment.

The EPA has thoroughly reviewed the alternative polymeric product and confirmed the improved environment profile.<sup>1</sup>

Reference: <sup>1</sup> Flame Retardant Alternatives for Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD), United States Environmental Protection Agency. 2014.



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## EPS No.1020

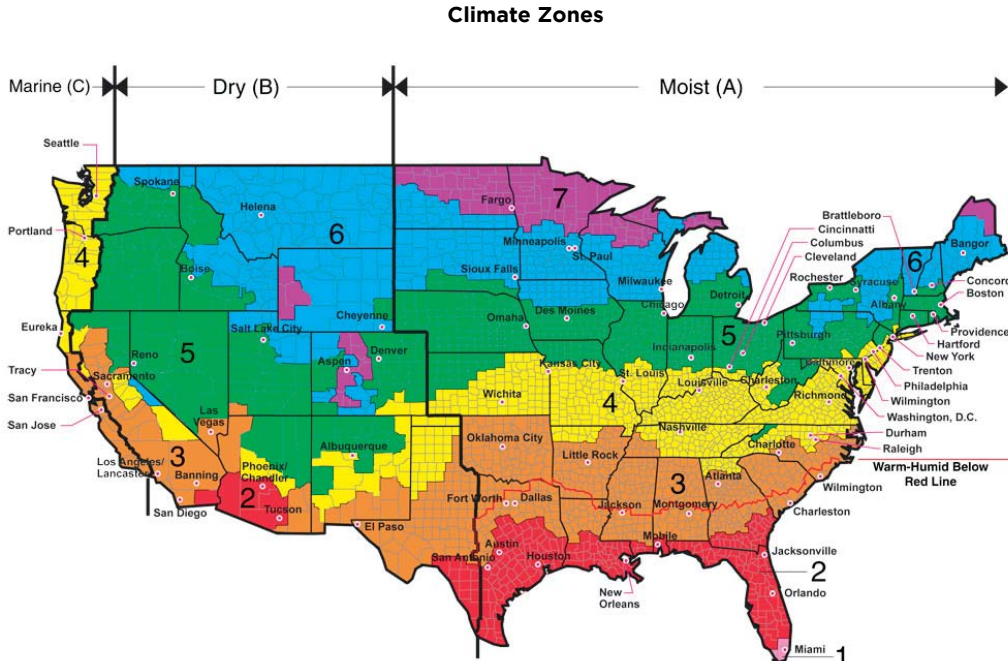
**Subject:** ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1-2010 Insulation Requirements

**Date:** April 2012

Foam-Control EPS is a versatile insulation material which is suitable for installation in all areas of buildings. Foam-Control EPS insulation is available in a wide range of types and sizes to ensure that building owners are able to meet the most advanced energy code requirements, such as those published by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc. (ASHRAE). This bulletin provides a summary of the prescriptive insulation requirements of the 2010 edition of ASHRAE Standard 90.1, "Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Building". Please refer to ASHRAE Standard 90.1 for detailed information.

ASHRAE Standard 90.1 is applied to commercial buildings and multistory residential buildings and is often adopted as a code requirement at the State level. State adoption of ASHRAE 90.1 may also be to the prior versions of ASHRE90.1 issued in 2001, 2004, and 2007.

The tables included with this bulletin provide the minimum prescriptive insulation requirements of ASHRAE90.1-2010. Alternative paths for conformance through detailed analysis are also available within the standard. Insulation requirements vary according to Climate Zone.



All of Alaska in Zone 7 except for the following Boroughs in Zone 8: Bethel, Dellingham, Fairbanks, N. Star, Nome North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Southeast Fairbanks, Wade Hampton, and Yukon-Koyukuk  
Zone 1 includes: Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands

**Walls, Above Grade**

ASHRAE Standard 90.1 provides prescriptive insulation requirements for above grade walls of heated buildings constructed with wood framing, steel framing, metal buildings, and mass (concrete, CMU, or stone) systems. The first number in the table below is the requirement for cavity insulation and the second number is for continuous insulation (ci). Continuous insulation minimizes heat loss since the insulation is installed continuously across the wall without thermal bridges other than fasteners and service openings.

ASHRAE 90.1-2010 Prescriptive R-value								
Walls, above grade								
	Wood-Framed		Steel-Framed		Metal-Framed		Mass	
Zone	Nonresidential	Residential	Nonresidential	Residential	Nonresidential	Residential	Nonresidential	Residential
1	13	13	13	13	16	16	NR	5.7ci
2	13	13	13	13+7.5ci	16	16	5.7ci	7.6ci
3	13	13	13+3.8ci	13+7.5ci	19	19	7.6ci	9.5ci
4	13	13+3.8 ci	13+7.5ci	13+7.5ci	19	19	9.5ci	11.4ci
5	13+3.8ci	13+7.5ci	13+7.5ci	13+7.5ci	13+5.6ci	13+5.6ci	11.4ci	13.3ci
6	13+7.5ci	13+7.5ci	13+7.5ci	13+7.5ci	13+5.6ci	13+5.6ci	13.3ci	15.2ci
7	13+7.5ci	13+7.5ci	13+7.5ci	13+15.6ci	13+5.6ci	13+5.6ci	15.2ci	15.2ci
8	13+15.6ci	13+15.6ci	13+15.6ci	13+18.8ci	19+5.6ci	19+5.6ci	15.2ci	25.0ci

ci = continuous insulation

**Wall, Below Grade**

ASHRAE Standard 90.1 provides prescriptive insulation requirements for below grade walls of heated buildings. Continuous insulation minimizes heat loss since the insulation is installed continuously across the wall without thermal bridges other than fasteners and service openings.

ASHRAE 90.1-2010 Prescriptive R-value		
Walls, below grade		
Zone	Nonresidential	Residential
1	0	0
2	0	0
3	0	0
4	0	7.5ci
5	7.5ci	7.5ci
6	7.5ci	7.5ci
7	7.5ci	10.0ci
8	7.5ci	12.5ci

ci = continuous insulation

**Floor and Slabs**

ASHRAE Standard 90.1 provides the prescriptive insulation requirements for mass floors and slab on grade floors of heated and unheated building.

<b>ASHRAE 90.1-2010 Prescriptive R-value</b>						
<b>Floors</b>						
	<b>Mass</b>		<b>Slab-On-Grade Heated</b>		<b>Slab-On-Grade UnHeated</b>	
<b>Zone</b>	<b>Nonresidential</b>	<b>Residential</b>	<b>Nonresidential</b>	<b>Residential</b>	<b>Nonresidential</b>	<b>Residential</b>
1	NR	NR	R-7.5 for 12 in.	R-7.5 for 12 in.	NR	NR
2	6.3ci	8.3ci	R-7.5 for 12 in.	R-7.5 for 12 in.	NR	NR
3	6.3ci	8.3ci	R-10 for 24 in.	R-10 for 24 in.	NR	NR
4	8.3ci	10.4ci	R-15 for 24 in.	R-15 for 24 in.	NR	R-10 for 24 in.
5	10.4ci	12.5ci	R-15 for 24 in.	R-15 for 24 in.	NR	R-10 for 24 in.
6	12.5ci	14.6ci	R-15 for 24 in.	R-20 for 48 in.	R-10 for 24 in.	R-15 for 24 in.
7	12.5ci	16.7ci	R-20 for 24 in.	R-20 for 48 in.	R-15 for 24 in.	R-15 for 24 in.
8	14.6ci	16.7ci	R-20 for 48 in.	R-20 for 48 in.	R-15 for 24 in.	R-20 for 24 in.

ci = continuous insulation

**Roof Insulation**

ASHRAE Standard 90.1 provides the prescriptive insulation requirements for continuous roof insulation above roof decks.

<b>ASHRAE 90.1-2010 Prescriptive R-value</b>		
<b>Roof</b>		
<b>Above Deck</b>		
<b>Zone</b>	<b>Nonresidential</b>	<b>Residential</b>
1	15ci	20ci
2	20ci	20ci
3	20ci	20ci
4	20ci	20ci
5	20ci	20ci
6	20ci	20ci
7	20ci	20ci
8	20ci	20ci

ci = continuous insulation



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## EPS No. 1021

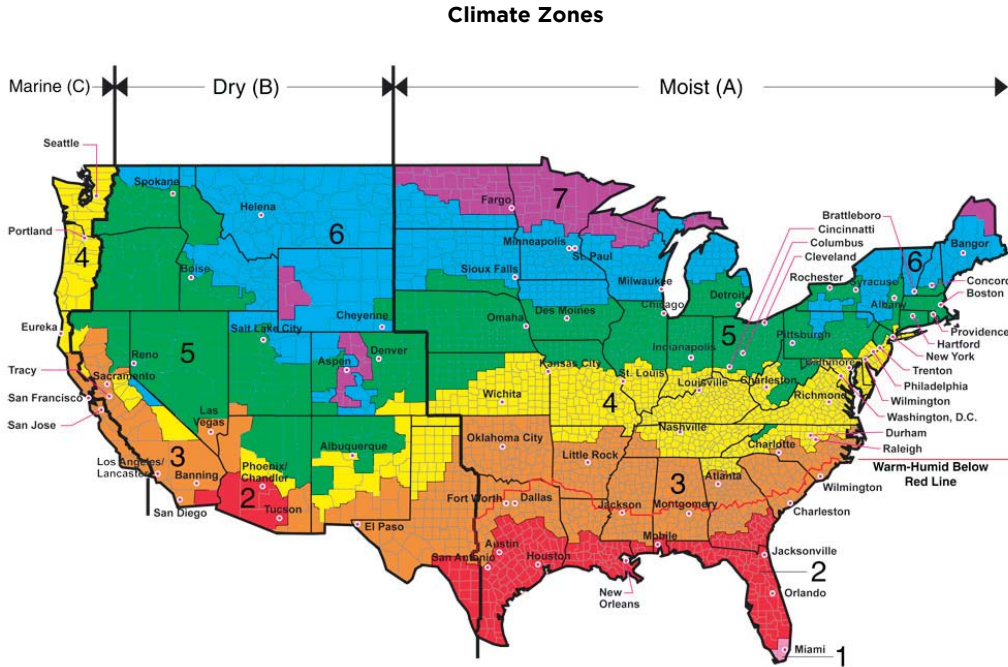
**Subject:** IECC Insulation Requirements

**Date:** April 2012

Foam-Control EPS is a versatile insulation material which is suitable for installation in all areas of buildings. Foam-Control EPS insulation is available in a wide range of types and sizes to ensure that building owners are able to meet the most advanced energy code requirements, such as those published by the International Code Council (ICC). This bulletin provides a summary of the prescriptive insulation requirements of the 2012 edition of International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) published by ICC. Please refer to the 2012 IECC for detailed information.

The IECC is a leading energy code that is applicable to both commercial and residential buildings and is often adopted as a code requirement at the State level. State adoption of IECC may also be to the prior versions of the IECC issued in 2006 and 2009.

The tables included with this bulletin provide the minimum prescriptive insulation requirements of IECC-2012. Alternative paths for conformance through detailed analysis are also available within the standard. Insulation requirements vary according to Climate Zone.



All of Alaska in Zone 7 except for the following Boroughs in Zone 8: Bethel, Dellingham, Fairbanks, N. Star, Nome North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Southeast Fairbanks, Wade Hampton, and Yukon-Koyukuk

Zone 1 includes: Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands

**Residential**

The IECC provides prescriptive insulation requirements for residential buildings. The first number in the table below is the requirement for cavity insulation and the second number is for continuous insulation (ci).

IECC-2012 Prescriptive R-value Residential							
Zone	Wood-Framed <sup>1</sup> Wall	Mass <sup>2</sup> Wall	Basement Wall <sup>3</sup>	Slab <sup>4</sup> Wall	Floor	Crawl Space	Ceiling
1	R-13	R-3/4	0	0	R-13	0	R-30
2	R-13	R-4/6	0	0	R-13	0	R-38
3	R-13+5ci or R-20	R-8/13	R-5/13	0	R-19	R-5/13	R-38
4 except Marine	R-13+5ci or R-20	R-8/13	R-10/13	R-10	R-19	R-10/13	R-49
5 and 4 Marine	R-13+5ci or R-20	R-13/17	R-15/19	R-10	R-30	R-15/19	R-49
6	R-13+10ci R-20+5ci	R-15/20	R-15/19	R-10	R-30	R-15/19	R-49
7	R-13+10ci R-20+5ci	R-19/21	R-15/19	R-10	R-38	R-15/19	R-49
8	R-13+10ci R-20+5ci	R-19/21	R-15/19	R-10	R-38	R-15/19	R-49

ci = continuous insulation

1 = First value is cavity insulation, second is continuous insulation, so "13+5" means R-13 cavity insulation plus R-5 continuous insulation.

2 = The second R-value applies when more than half the insulation is on the interior of the mass wall.

3 = "15/19" means R-15 continuous insulation on the interior or exterior of the home or R-19 cavity insulation at the interior of the basement wall. "10/13" means R-10 continuous insulation on the interior or exterior of the home or R-13 cavity insulation at the interior of the basement wall.

4 = Depth of the slab insulation is 2 ft in zone 4/5 and 4 ft in zones 6/7/8.

### Commercial Walls, Above Grade

The IECC provides prescriptive insulation requirements for above grade walls of heated buildings constructed with wood framing, steel framing, metal buildings, and mass (concrete, CMU, or stone) systems. The first number in the table below is the requirement for cavity insulation and the second number is for continuous insulation (ci). Continuous insulation minimizes heat loss since the insulation is installed continuously across the wall without thermal bridges other than fasteners and service openings.

IECC-2012 Prescriptive R-value Commercial								
Walls, above grade								
Zone	Wood-Framed		Metal-Framed		Metal-Building		Mass	
	All other	Group R	All other	Group R	All other	Group R	All other	Group R
1	R-13+3.8ci or R-20	R-13+3.8ci R-20	R-13+5ci	R-13+5ci	R-13+6.5ci	R-13+6.5ci	R-5.7ci	R-5.7ci
2	R-13+3.8ci or R-20	R-13+3.8ci R-20	R-13+5ci	R-13+7.5ci	R-13+6.5ci	R-13+13ci	R-5.7ci	R-7.6ci
3	R-13+3.8ci or R-20	R-13+3.8ci R-20	R-13+7.5ci	R-13+7.5ci	R-13+6.5ci	R-13+13ci	R-7.6ci	R-9.5ci
4 except Marine	R-13+3.8ci or R-20	R-13+3.8ci R-20	R-13+7.5ci	R-13+7.5ci	R-13+13ci	R-13+13ci	R-9.5ci	R-11.4ci
5 and 4 Marine	R-13+3.8ci or R-20	R-13+7.5ci R-20+3.8ci	R-13+7.5ci	R-13+7.5ci	R-13+13ci	R-13+13ci	R-11.4ci	R-13.3ci
6	R-13+7.5ci or R-20+3.8ci	R-13+7.5ci R-20+3.8ci	R-13+7.5ci	R-13+7.5ci	R-13+13ci	R-13+13ci	R-13.3ci	R-15.2ci
7	R-13+7.5ci or R-20+3.8ci	R-13+7.5ci R-20+3.8ci	R-13+7.5ci	R-13+15.6ci	R-13+13ci	R-13+19.5ci	R-15.2ci	R-15.2ci
8	R-13+15.6ci or R-20+10ci	R-13+15.6ci R-20+10ci	R-13+7.5ci	R-13+17.5ci	R-13+13ci	R-13+19.5ci	R-25.0ci	R-25.0ci

ci = continuous insulation

### Commercial Walls, Below Grade

The IECC provides prescriptive insulation requirements for below grade walls of heated buildings. Continuous insulation minimizes heat loss since the insulation is installed continuously across the wall without thermal bridges other than fasteners and service openings.

IECC-2012 Prescriptive R-value Commercial		
Walls, below grade		
Zone	All other	Group R
1	NR	NR
2	NR	NR
3	NR	NR
4 except Marine	R-7.5ci	R-7.5ci
5 and 4 Marine	R-7.5ci	R-7.5ci
6	R-7.5ci	R-7.5ci
7	R-10.0ci	R-10.0ci
8	R-10.0ci	R-12.5ci

ci = continuous insulation

### Commercial Floors and Slabs

The IECC provides the prescriptive insulation requirements for mass floors and slab on grade floors of heated and unheated building.

IECC-2012 Prescriptive R-value Commercial						
Floors						
Zone	Mass		Slab-On-Grade Heated		Slab-On-Grade UnHeated	
	All other	Group R	All other	Group R	All other	Group R
1	NR	NR	R-7.5 for 12 in.	R-7.5 for 12 in.	NR	NR
2	R-6.3ci	R-8.3ci	R-7.5 for 12 in.	R-7.5 for 12 in.	NR	NR
3	R-10ci	R-10ci	R-10 for 24 in.	R-10 for 24 in.	NR	NR
4 except Marine	R-10ci	R-10.4ci	R-15 for 24 in.	R-15 for 24 in.	R-10 for 24 in.	R-10 for 24 in.
5 and 4 Marine	R-10ci	R-12.5ci	R-15 for 36 in.	R-15 for 36 in.	R-10 for 24 in.	R-10 for 24 in.
6	R-12.5ci	R-12.5ci	R-15 for 36 in.	R-20 for 48 in.	R-10 for 24 in.	R-15 for 24 in.
7	R-15ci	R-16.7ci	R-20 for 24 in.	R-20 for 48 in.	R-15 for 24 in.	R-15 for 24 in.
8	R-15ci	R-16.7ci	R-20 for 48 in.	R-20 for 48 in.	R-15 for 24 in.	R-20 for 24 in.

ci = continuous insulation

### Commercial Roof Insulation

The IECC provides the prescriptive insulation requirements for continuous roof insulation above roof decks.

IECC-2012 Prescriptive R-value Commercial		
Roof		
Above Deck		
Zone	All other	Group R
1	R-20ci	R-20ci
2	R-20ci	R-20ci
3	R-20ci	R-20ci
4 except Marine	R-25ci	R-25ci
5 and 4 Marine	R-25ci	R-25ci
6	R-30ci	R-30ci
7	R-35ci	R-35ci
8	R-35ci	R-35ci

ci = continuous insulation



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## EPS No.1022

**Subject:** EPS Compatible Adhesives

**Date:** June 2012 (Revised February 2015)

Foam-Control EPS is often applied to various substrates with the use of adhesives. Adhesives provide a convenient method for installation of Foam-Control EPS products, however, the use of adhesives which are specifically designed for use with polystyrene foams must be used. Some adhesives contain solvents or other additives which can damage polystyrene foams.

The following adhesive manufacturers recommend specific products for use with polystyrene foam. Please contact the manufacturers directly for installation recommendations.

**DAP® Beats The Nail**

DAP Inc.  
(888)DAP-TIPS  
www.dap.com

**3M™ Polystyrene Foam Insulation 78 Spray Adhesive**

3M  
(800)362-3550  
www.3M.com/adhesives

**ENERBOND™ Foam Adhesive**

Dow Building Solutions  
(866)-583-2583  
www.dowbuildingsolutions.com

**OSI QB-300**

Henkel Corporation  
(800)624-7767  
www.henkel.com

**GREAT STUFF PRO Wall & Floor Adhesive**

Dow Building Solutions  
(866)-583-2583  
www.dowbuildingsolutions.com

**Sonneborn 200 Adhesive**

BASF Corporation Building Systems  
(800)433-9517  
www.buildingsystems.BASF.com

The list is provided only as a courtesy to Foam-Control EPS users and is not necessarily exhaustive.

No warranty with respect to the suitability of the above products is being made. Please check with the adhesive manufacturer to confirm the compatibility of their adhesive with polystyrene foams.



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