Amerrock Products, LP
Manufactures of
Rockwool Premium Plus™ Insulation
Producing a product with the environment in mind…

December 29, 2009

RE: Rockwool Premium Plus™ Insulation as a Thermal Barrier over Foam Insulation

Amerrock Products, LP is pleased to announce that Rockwool Premium Plus™ Insulation has been evaluated and has passed the modified NFPA® 275 Standard Method of Fire Tests for the Evaluation of Thermal Barriers Used Over Foam Plastic Insulations (Part 1). The deviation from the standard method was the use of ½" Type C gypsum wallboard instead of the ½" calcium silicate board described in the standard.

Spray foam insulation is often applied to the underside of the residential roof deck in an unvented cathedral attic[2]. This practice is commonly referred to as either a "conditioned attic" or a "sealed attic". Spray polyurethane foam properly used in this application has been proven to provide energy efficient buildings especially when a significant portion of the HVAC ducting is in the attic space. This conditioned attic practice is popular in the southern states (zones 1-3) using open cell spray polyurethane foam. It is gaining acceptance in the colder climates using closed cell spray polyurethane foam. The current International Building Code (IBC) requires spray polyurethane foam to be separated from the building occupants with a 15 minute thermal barrier or in attics and crawl spaces by an ignition barrier[1,3]. In January 2010 the majority of major metropolitan city codes will adopt the requirements of the more stringent NFPA® 275 test states testing engineers at Interek Labs.

Director of Sales and Marketing, Walt Smith points to three reasons that this is a very big accomplishment for Amerrock Products and the insulation industry:

- With the addition of Rockwool Premium Plus™ Insulation not only will you satisfy the code requirement for an ignition or thermal barrier, but you will add additional R-Value to your insulation package.
- The cost for current ignitions and thermal barriers is high and adding those cost to the already higher cost of SPF insulations will make it difficult to afford for many homeowners that wish to insulate with foam. At a significantly lower price, Rockwool Premium Plus™ Insulation provides a thermal barrier at a price lower than paint on ignition barriers. For those contractors that spray Rockwool it will differentiate them from their competition, and it will provide their customers with a better solution.
- And finally, in a competitive pricing situation, because of the high R-Value of Rockwool Premium Plus™ Insulation spraying 2" of Rockwool and reducing the thickness of your SPF (1" for Closed Cell and 2" for Open Cell) will maintain your needed R-Value, satisfy code requirements, and reduce your overall cost.

For more information on this, Rockwool Premium Plus™ Insulation, other Amerrock Products or Amerrock approved contractors, plese visit our website at www.amerrock.com or call (800) 762-9665.

[1]*IBC Section 2603.4.1.6 Attics and crawl spaces*. Within an attic or crawl space where entry is made only for service of utilities, foam plastic insulation shall be protected against ignition by 1.5-inch-thick (38 mm) mineral fiber insulation; 0.25-inch-thick (6.4 mm) wood structural panel, particleboard or hardboard; 0.375-inch (9.5 mm) gypsum wallboard, corrosion-resistant steel having a base metal thickness of 0.016 inch (0.4 mm) or other approved material installed in such a manner that the foam plastic insulation is not exposed. The protective covering shall be consistent with the requirements for the type of construction.

[2]*Understanding Attic Ventilation,* BSD-102, http://www.buildingscience.com/documents/digests/bsd-102-understanding-attic-ventilation/

[3]*IBC Section 2603.4 Thermal barrier.* Except as provided for in Sections 2603.4.1 and 2603.8, foam plastic shall be separated from the interior of a building by an approved thermal barrier of 0.5-inch (12.7mm) gypsum wallboard or equivalent thermal barrier material that will limit the average temperature rise of the unexposed surface to not more than 250°F (120°C) after 15 minutes of fire exposure, complying with the standard time-temperature curve of ASTM E 119. The thermal barrier shall be installed in such a manner that it will remain in place for 15 minutes based on FM 4880, UL 1040, NFPA® 286 or UL 1715. Combustible concealed spaces shall comply with Section 717.