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## **Foam Plastic Insulation For Projects Regulated by the IRC Code**

The common use of foam plastic in a building as insulation is subject to both the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC) and Maine Law Title 25§2447-B. Topsham enforces the provisions of MUBEC, however your project is likely subject to both laws. Whether one law supersedes or modifies the other is beyond the authority of this office to determine, however as the property owner, you are responsible for compliance with all laws that apply to your project. This office requires compliance with MUBEC. Attached are a few memos issued by the State Fire Marshal's Office outlining their position regarding the use of various foam products. If you have any questions regarding these memos or products, please contact the State Fire Marshal Office at (207) 626-3889.

See attached:

- IRC section R316; see R316.6 for exceptions to Thermal Barrier requirements. The approved tests mentioned are typically in the form of a report generated by ICC Evaluation Services (ES).
- Title 25§2447-B
- Letters issued by the State Fire Marshal's office that modify the title. *Note in all SFMO letters, certification of correct installation is to be provided to property owners by the installer.*

the *addition* of a porch or deck, are exempt from the requirements of this section.

2. Installation, *alteration* or repairs of plumbing or mechanical systems are exempt from the requirements of this section.

**R314.4 Power source.** Smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring when such wiring is served from a commercial source, and when primary power is interrupted, shall receive power from a battery. Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than those required for overcurrent protection. Smoke alarms shall be interconnected.

**Exceptions:**

1. Smoke alarms shall be permitted to be battery operated when installed in buildings without commercial power.
2. Interconnection and hard-wiring of smoke alarms in existing areas shall not be required where the *alterations* or repairs do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an *attic*, crawl space or *basement* available which could provide access for hard wiring and interconnection without the removal of interior finishes.

### SECTION R315 CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

**R315.1 Carbon monoxide alarms.** For new construction, an approved carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms in *dwelling units* within which fuel-fired *appliances* are installed and in dwelling units that have attached garages.

**R315.2 Where required in existing dwellings.** Where work requiring a *permit* occurs in existing *dwellings* that have attached garages or in existing dwellings within which fuel-fired *appliances* exist, carbon monoxide alarms shall be provided in accordance with Section R315.1.

**R315.3 Alarm requirements.** Single station carbon monoxide alarms shall be listed as complying with UL 2034 and shall be installed in accordance with this code and the manufacturer's installation instructions.

### SECTION R316 FOAM PLASTIC

**R316.1 General.** The provisions of this section shall govern the materials, design, application, construction and installation of foam plastic materials.

**R316.2 Labeling and identification.** Packages and containers of foam plastic insulation and foam plastic insulation components delivered to the job site shall bear the *label* of an *approved agency* showing the manufacturer's name, the product listing, product identification and information sufficient to determine that the end use will comply with the requirements.

**R316.3 Surface burning characteristics.** Unless otherwise allowed in Section R316.5 or R316.6, all foam plastic or foam plastic cores used as a component in manufactured assemblies used in building construction shall have a flame spread index of not more than 75 and shall have a smoke-developed index of not more than 450 when tested in the maximum thickness intended for use in accordance with ASTM E 84 or UL 723. Loose-fill type foam plastic insulation shall be tested as board stock for the flame spread index and smoke-developed index.

**Exception:** Foam plastic insulation more than 4 inches (102 mm) thick shall have a maximum flame spread index of 75 and a smoke-developed index of 450 where tested at a minimum thickness of 4 inches (102 mm), provided the end use is *approved* in accordance with Section R316.6 using the thickness and density intended for use.

**R316.4 Thermal barrier.** Unless otherwise allowed in Section R316.5 or Section R316.6, foam plastic shall be separated from the interior of a building by an *approved* thermal barrier of minimum  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (12.7 mm) gypsum wallboard or an *approved* finish material equivalent to a thermal barrier material that will limit the average temperature rise of the unexposed surface to no more than 250°F (139°C) after 15 minutes of fire exposure complying with the ASTM E 119 or UL 263 standard time temperature curve. The thermal barrier shall be installed in such a manner that it will remain in place for 15 minutes based on NFPA 286 with the acceptance criteria of Section R302.9.4, FM 4880, UL 1040 or UL 1715.

**R316.5 Specific requirements.** The following requirements shall apply to these uses of foam plastic unless specifically *approved* in accordance with Section R316.6 or by other sections of the code or the requirements of Sections R316.2 through R316.4 have been met.

**R316.5.1 Masonry or concrete construction.** The thermal barrier specified in Section R316.4 is not required in a masonry or concrete wall, floor or roof when the foam plastic insulation is separated from the interior of the building by a minimum 1-inch (25 mm) thickness of masonry or concrete.

**R316.5.2 Roofing.** The thermal barrier specified in Section R316.4 is not required when the foam plastic in a roof assembly or under a roof covering is installed in accordance with the code and the manufacturer's installation instructions and is separated from the interior of the building by tongue-and-groove wood planks or wood structural panel sheathing in accordance with Section R803, not less than  $\frac{15}{32}$  inch (11.9 mm) thick bonded with exterior glue and identified as Exposure 1, with edges supported by blocking or tongue-and-groove joints or an equivalent material. The smoke-developed index for roof applications shall not be limited.

**R316.5.3 Attics.** The thermal barrier specified in Section R316.4 is not required where all of the following apply:

1. *Attic* access is required by Section R807.1.
2. The space is entered only for purposes of repairs or maintenance.

3. The foam plastic insulation is protected against ignition using one of the following ignition barrier materials:

- 3.1. 1½-inch-thick (38 mm) mineral fiber insulation;
- 3.2. ¼-inch-thick (6.4 mm) wood structural panels;
- 3.3. ⅜-inch (9.5 mm) particleboard;
- 3.4. ¼-inch (6.4 mm) hardboard;
- 3.5. ⅜-inch (9.5 mm) gypsum board; or
- 3.6. Corrosion-resistant steel having a base metal thickness of 0.016 inch (0.406 mm).

The above ignition barrier is not required where the foam plastic insulation has been tested in accordance with Section R316.6.

**R316.5.4 Crawl spaces.** The thermal barrier specified in Section R316.4 is not required where all of the following apply:

1. Crawlspace access is required by Section R408.4
2. Entry is made only for purposes of repairs or maintenance.
3. The foam plastic insulation is protected against ignition using one of the following ignition barrier materials:

- 3.1. 1½-inch-thick (38 mm) mineral fiber insulation;
- 3.2. ¼-inch-thick (6.4 mm) wood structural panels;
- 3.3. ⅜-inch (9.5 mm) particleboard;
- 3.4. ¼-inch (6.4 mm) hardboard;
- 3.5. ⅜-inch (9.5 mm) gypsum board; or
- 3.6. Corrosion-resistant steel having a base metal thickness of 0.016 inch (0.406 mm).

The above ignition barrier is not required where the foam plastic insulation has been tested in accordance with Section R316.6.

**R316.5.5 Foam-filled exterior doors.** Foam-filled exterior doors are exempt from the requirements of Sections R316.3 and R316.4.

**R316.5.6 Foam-filled garage doors.** Foam-filled garage doors in attached or detached garages are exempt from the requirements of Sections R316.3 and R316.4.

**R316.5.7 Foam backer board.** The thermal barrier specified in Section R316.4 is not required where siding backer board foam plastic insulation has a maximum thickness of 0.5 inch (12.7 mm) and a potential heat of not more than 2000 Btu per square foot (22 720 kJ/m<sup>2</sup>) when tested in accordance with NFPA 259 provided that:

1. The foam plastic insulation is separated from the interior of the building by not less than 2 inches (51 mm) of mineral fiber insulation or

2. The foam plastic insulation is installed over existing *exterior wall* finish in conjunction with re-siding or
3. The foam plastic insulation has been tested in accordance with Section R316.6.

**R316.5.8 Re-siding.** The thermal barrier specified in Section R316.4 is not required where the foam plastic insulation is installed over existing *exterior wall* finish in conjunction with re-siding provided the foam plastic has a maximum thickness of 0.5 inch (12.7 mm) and a potential heat of not more than 2000 Btu per square foot (22 720 kJ/m<sup>2</sup>) when tested in accordance with NFPA 259.

**R316.5.9 Interior trim.** The thermal barrier specified in Section R316.4 is not required for exposed foam plastic interior trim, provided all of the following are met:

1. The minimum density is 20 pounds per cubic foot (320 kg/m<sup>3</sup>).
2. The maximum thickness of the trim is 0.5 inch (12.7 mm) and the maximum width is 8 inches (204 mm).
3. The interior trim shall not constitute more than 10 percent of the aggregate wall and ceiling area of any room or space.
4. The flame spread index does not exceed 75 when tested per ASTM E 84. The smoke-developed index is not limited.

**R316.5.10 Interior finish.** Foam plastics shall be permitted as interior finish where *approved* in accordance with Section R316.6. Foam plastics that are used as interior finish shall also meet the flame spread index and smoke-developed index requirements of Sections R302.9.1 and R302.9.2.

**R316.5.11 Sill plates and headers.** Foam plastic shall be permitted to be spray applied to a sill plate and header without the thermal barrier specified in Section R316.4 subject to all of the following:

1. The maximum thickness of the foam plastic shall be ¾ inches (83 mm).
2. The density of the foam plastic shall be in the range of 0.5 to 2.0 pounds per cubic foot (8 to 32 kg/m<sup>3</sup>).
3. The foam plastic shall have a flame spread index of 25 or less and an accompanying smoke developed index of 450 or less when tested in accordance with ASTM E 84.

**R316.5.12 Sheathing.** Foam plastic insulation used as sheathing shall comply with Section R316.3 and Section R316.4. Where the foam plastic sheathing is exposed to the *attic* space at a gable or kneewall, the provisions of Section R316.5.3 shall apply.

**R316.6 Specific approval.** Foam plastic not meeting the requirements of Sections R316.3 through R316.5 shall be specifically *approved* on the basis of one of the following *approved* tests: NFPA 286 with the acceptance criteria of Section R302.9.4, FM4880, UL 723, UL 1040 or UL 1715, or fire tests related to actual end-use configurations. The specific approval shall be based on the actual end use configuration and shall be performed on the finished foam plastic assembly in the maximum thickness intended for use. Assemblies tested shall

include seams, joints and other typical details used in the installation of the assembly and shall be tested in the manner intended for use.

**R316.7 Termite damage.** The use of foam plastics in areas of “very heavy” termite infestation probability shall be in accordance with Section R318.4.

### SECTION R317 PROTECTION OF WOOD AND WOOD BASED PRODUCTS AGAINST DECAY

**R317.1 Location required.** Protection of wood and wood based products from decay shall be provided in the following locations by the use of naturally durable wood or wood that is preservative-treated in accordance with AWPA U1 for the species, product, preservative and end use. Preservatives shall be listed in Section 4 of AWPA U1.

1. Wood joists or the bottom of a wood structural floor when closer than 18 inches (457 mm) or wood girders when closer than 12 inches (305 mm) to the exposed ground in crawl spaces or unexcavated area located within the periphery of the building foundation.
2. All wood framing members that rest on concrete or masonry exterior foundation walls and are less than 8 inches (203 mm) from the exposed ground.
3. Sills and sleepers on a concrete or masonry slab that is in direct contact with the ground unless separated from such slab by an impervious moisture barrier.
4. The ends of wood girders entering exterior masonry or concrete walls having clearances of less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (12.7 mm) on tops, sides and ends.
5. Wood siding, sheathing and wall framing on the exterior of a building having a clearance of less than 6 inches (152 mm) from the ground or less than 2 inches (51 mm) measured vertically from concrete steps, porch slabs, patio slabs, and similar horizontal surfaces exposed to the weather.
6. Wood structural members supporting moisture-permeable floors or roofs that are exposed to the weather, such as concrete or masonry slabs, unless separated from such floors or roofs by an impervious moisture barrier.
7. Wood furring strips or other wood framing members attached directly to the interior of exterior masonry walls or concrete walls below *grade* except where an *approved* vapor retarder is applied between the wall and the furring strips or framing members.

**R317.1.1 Field treatment.** Field-cut ends, notches and drilled holes of preservative-treated wood shall be treated in the field in accordance with AWPA M4.

**R317.1.2 Ground contact.** All wood in contact with the ground, embedded in concrete in direct contact with the ground or embedded in concrete exposed to the weather that supports permanent structures intended for human occupancy shall be *approved* pressure-preservative-treated wood suitable for ground contact use, except untreated

wood may be used where entirely below groundwater level or continuously submerged in fresh water.

**R317.1.3 Geographical areas.** In geographical areas where experience has demonstrated a specific need, *approved* naturally durable or pressure-preservative-treated wood shall be used for those portions of wood members that form the structural supports of buildings, balconies, porches or similar permanent building appurtenances when those members are exposed to the weather without adequate protection from a roof, eave, overhang or other covering that would prevent moisture or water accumulation on the surface or at joints between members. Depending on local experience, such members may include:

1. Horizontal members such as girders, joists and decking.
2. Vertical members such as posts, poles and columns.
3. Both horizontal and vertical members.

**R317.1.4 Wood columns.** Wood columns shall be *approved* wood of natural decay resistance or *approved* pressure-preservative-treated wood.

#### Exceptions:

1. Columns exposed to the weather or in *basements* when supported by concrete piers or metal pedestals projecting 1 inch (25.4 mm) above a concrete floor or 6 inches (152 mm) above exposed earth and the earth is covered by an *approved* impervious moisture barrier.
2. Columns in enclosed crawl spaces or unexcavated areas located within the periphery of the building when supported by a concrete pier or metal pedestal at a height more than 8 inches (203mm) from exposed earth and the earth is covered by an impervious moisture barrier.

**R317.1.5 Exposed glued-laminated timbers.** The portions of glued-laminated timbers that form the structural supports of a building or other structure and are exposed to weather and not properly protected by a roof, eave or similar covering shall be pressure treated with preservative, or be manufactured from naturally durable or preservative-treated wood.

**R317.2 Quality mark.** Lumber and plywood required to be pressure-preservative-treated in accordance with Section R318.1 shall bear the quality *mark* of an *approved* inspection agency that maintains continuing supervision, testing and inspection over the quality of the product and that has been *approved* by an accreditation body that complies with the requirements of the American Lumber Standard Committee treated wood program.

**R317.2.1 Required information.** The required quality *mark* on each piece of pressure-preservative-treated lumber or plywood shall contain the following information:

1. Identification of the treating plant.
2. Type of preservative.
3. The minimum preservative retention.
4. End use for which the product was treated.
5. Standard to which the product was treated.

## 25 §2447-B. FOAM PLASTIC INSULATION STANDARDS

### 25 §2447-B. FOAM PLASTIC INSULATION STANDARDS

**1. Prohibition.** No individual, partnership or corporation shall install in this State any type of foam plastic insulation unless that product complies with and is installed in accordance with the following requirements.

A. Unless otherwise excepted in the following subparagraphs, all foam plastic or foam plastic cores of manufactured assemblies shall have a flame-spread rating of not more than 75 and a smoke-developed rating of not more than 450 when tested in the maximum thickness intended for use in accordance with ASTM E-84. For all such installations, the foam plastic shall be separated from habitable or occupiable spaces by an approved thermal barrier of 1/2 inch gypsum wallboard or equivalent thermal barrier material which will limit the average temperature rise of the unexposed surface to not more than 250° F. after 15 minutes of fire exposure complying with the ASTM E-119 standard time-temperature curve. Thermal barriers shall be installed in a manner that assures they will stay in place for a minimum of 15 minutes under the same test exposure conditions.

(1) Foam plastics may be used without the thermal barrier described in this paragraph when the foam plastic is protected by a minimum of one inch thickness of masonry or concrete.

(2) Foam plastics when tested in a thickness of 4 inches may be used in a thickness up to 10 inches when the building is equipped with an approved automatic fire suppression system.

For use in rooms within buildings, this requirement shall apply to both the room and that part of the building in which the room is located.

(3) Foam plastics having a maximum flame-spread rating of 75 may be used in thicknesses up to 4 inches in free-standing walk-in coolers or freezer units less than 400 square feet in floor area without a thermal barrier and without an automatic fire suppression system when the foam plastic is covered by a metal facing not less than 0.032 inch thick aluminum or No. 26 gauge steel. When protected by a thermal barrier, the foam plastic may be used in thicknesses up to 10 inches.

(4) Foam plastic insulation having a flame spread of 25 or less may be used in a thickness of not more than 4 inches without the thermal barrier when the foam plastic is covered by a metal facing not less than 0.032 inch thick aluminum or No. 26 gauge steel and the building is provided with an automatic fire suppression system.

(5) Foam plastic may be used in a roof covering assembly without the thermal barrier when the foam is separated from the interior of the building by plywood sheathing not less than 1/2 inch in thickness bonded with interior glue, with edges supported by blocking, tongue-and-groove joints or other approved type of edge support, or an equivalent material.

Foam plastic roof insulation that complies with Factory Mutual Standard 4450 or Underwriters Laboratories Subject 1256 need not meet the requirements of this paragraph.

For roofing applications, the smoke-developed rating shall not be limited.

(6) Foam plastics having a flame-spread rating of 75 or less may be used as a core material without a thermal barrier when the door is covered by a metal facing of not less than 0.032 inch thick aluminum or No. 26 gauge steel.

(7) Foam plastics may be used as a siding backer board with a maximum thickness of 1/2 inch, provided it is separated from the interior of the building by not less than 2 inches of mineral fiber insulation or equivalent, or when applied as residing over existing wall construction.

(8) Within an attic or crawl space where entry is made only for service of utilities, foam plastics shall be protected against ignition by 1 1/2 inch thick mineral fiber insulation, 1/4 inch thick plywood, particleboard, hardboard or gypsum wallboard, No. 26 gauge sheet steel or other approved material installed in such a manner that the foam plastic is not exposed. [1991, c. 2, §96 (COR) .]

B. Existing low hazard storage facilities with foam plastic insulation may be maintained without the required thermal barrier.

(1) Potato storage facilities constructed after the effective date of this paragraph shall provide an approved thermal barrier over foam plastic insulation for a minimum of 8' above the floor.

(2) The State Fire Marshal may permit in specific circumstances the use of foam plastic with a flame barrier when such use does not create a life safety hazard. [1981, c. 101, (NEW) .]

[ 1991, c. 2, §96 (COR) .]

**2. Alternate installations.** Foam plastics may be used in applications other than as listed in this section, when specifically approved by the State Fire Marshal based on diversified tests such as the Factory Mutual Building Corner Test Procedure or the enclosed room test procedures described in Underwriters Laboratories Subject 723. These approvals shall also be based on tests conducted in accordance with ASTM E-84 and ASTM D1929. Testing shall be performed on the finished manufactured foam plastic assemblies and on the maximum thickness intended for use.

[ 1979, c. 167, (NEW) .]

**3. Penalty.** Any violation of this section shall be a Class E crime.

[ 1979, c. 167, (NEW) .]

#### SECTION HISTORY

1979, c. 167, (NEW). 1981, c. 101, (AMD). RR 1991, c. 2, §96 (COR).

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STATE OF MAINE  
Department of Public Safety  
Office of State Fire Marshal  
52 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0052

PAUL R. LePAGE  
GOVERNOR

JOHN E. MORRIS  
COMMISSIONER

JOSEPH THOMAS  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

November 18, 2013

Memo

To: All Public Safety Inspectors

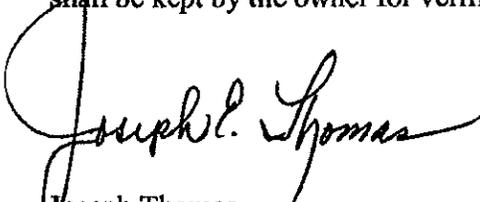
From: Joseph Thomas

Re: Thermal barriers over rigid foam

This memo is to clarify the position of this office regarding the 15 minute thermal barrier required to be installed over foam insulation to separate the foam from habitable and occupiable spaces. Title 25 section 2447-B allows for ½" gypsum wallboard or equivalent to be installed to obtain this thermal barrier. At this time this office will recognize the following products as having achieved equivalency and may be installed without the need of any additional barriers.

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Thermax Sheathing complying with    | ASTM C 1289 |
| 2. Thermax White Finish complying with | ASTM C 1289 |
| 3. RMax TSX-8500 complying with        | ASTM C 1289 |
| 4. RMax TSX-8510 Complying with        | ASTM C 1289 |

These products can be used if installed as per the manufactures instructions and used within the limitations of testing agency. This list can be amended as more products are tested and evaluated. Installers shall provide property owners a certification of correct installation of these products. A copy of the cut sheet and the certification shall be kept by the owner for verification of compliance

  
Joseph Thomas  
State Fire Marshal

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PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

JOHN E. MORRIS  
COMMISSIONER

JOHN C. DEAN  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

January 17, 2012

Memo

To: All Public Safety Inspectors  
From: John Dean  
Re: Thermal barriers over rigid foam

This memo is to clarify the position of this office regarding the 15 minute thermal barrier required to be installed over foam insulation to separate the foam from habitable and occupiable spaces. Title 25 section 2447-B allows for ½" gypsum wallboard or equivalent to be installed to obtain this thermal barrier. At this time this office will recognize the following products as having achieved equivalency and may be installed without the need of any additional barriers.

1. Thermax Sheathing complying with ASTM C 1289 Type 1 Class 2.
2. Thermax White Finish complying with ASTM C 1289 Type 1 Class2

These products can be used if installed as per the manufactures instructions. This list can be amended as more products are tested and evaluated . Installers shall provide property owners a certification of correct installation of these products . A copy of the cut sheet and the certification shall be kept by the owner for verification of compliance

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John C. Dean', with a long, sweeping underline.

John C. Dean  
State Fire Marshal

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JOHN C. DEAN  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

January 17, 2012

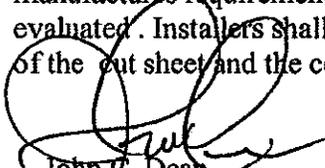
Memo

To: All Public Safety Inspectors  
From: John Dean  
Re: Ignition barriers over spray foam

This memo is to clarify the position of this office regarding the installation of an ignition barrier over foam plastic insulation within an attic or crawl space where entry is made only for the service of utilities. The foam plastic insulation shall be protected against ignition by 1 1/2" thick mineral fiber insulation, 1/4" plywood, particleboard, hardboard or gypsum wallboard, No. 26 gauge sheet steel or other approved material installed in such a manner that the foam plastic is not exposed. At this time this office will recognize the following products as having achieved equivalency to satisfy this requirement.

1. Cafco TB-415
2. Cafco TB-15
3. Flame Seal TB
4. Flame Control 5050A
5. TPR 2 Fireshell 1B
6. TPR 2 Fireshell F10E
7. TPR 2 Fireshell F1 E
8. International Fireproof Technology Inc. DC315
9. BASF Spraycoat 1920
10. Bayseal IC

These products can be used if installed as per the manufactures instructions, this also includes following the foam manufactures requirements for coating their product. This list can be amended as more products are tested and evaluated. Installers shall provide property owners a certification of correct installation of these products. A copy of the cut sheet and the certification shall be kept by the owner for verification of compliance

  
John C. Dean  
State Fire Marshal

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January 17, 2012

Memo

To: All Public Safety Inspectors  
From: John Dean  
Re: Thermal barriers over spray foam

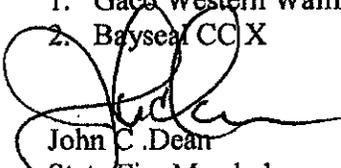
This memo is to clarify the position of this office regarding the 15 minute thermal barrier required to be installed over spray foam insulation to separate the foam from habitable and occupiable spaces. Title 25 section 2447-B allows for ½" gypsum wallboard or equivalent to be installed to obtain this thermal barrier. At this time this office will recognize the following products as having achieved equivalency.

1. Cafco TB -415
2. Cafco TB-15
3. Flame Seal TB
4. TPR 2 Fireshell F10E
5. TPR 2 Fireshell F 1 E
6. International Fireproof Technology Inc. DC 315

These products can be used if installed as per the manufactures instructions, this also includes following the foam manufactures requirements for coating their product. This list can be amended as more products are tested and evaluated . Installers shall provide property owners a certification of correct installation of these products . A copy of the cut sheet and the certification shall be kept by the owner for verification of compliance

The following products may be used within an attic or crawl space where entry is only made for servicing of utilities without an ignition barrier as provided for by the above named statute

1. Gaco Western Wallfoam 183
2. Bayseal CCX

  
John C. Dean  
State Fire Marshal

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