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**DrJ Research Report**

**DRR 1202-03**

Foam Plastic Insulating Sheathing  
Products in Exterior Walls of Type V  
Construction

**Foam Sheathing Committee  
(FSC) Members**

**Products:**

**Foam Plastic Insulation  
Products**

Issue Date:

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REPORT HOLDER  
INFORMATION:

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Foam Sheathing Committee (FSC) Members<sup>1</sup>

[americanchemistry.com/industry-groups/foam-sheathing-committee-fsc](http://americanchemistry.com/industry-groups/foam-sheathing-committee-fsc)

[continuousinsulation.org](http://continuousinsulation.org)

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DIVISION: 07 00 00 - THERMAL AND MOISTURE PROTECTION

SECTION: 07 20 00 - Thermal Protection

SECTION: 07 21 00 - Thermal Insulation

SECTION: 07 21 13 - Foam Board Insulation

SECTION: 07 24 00 - Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems

SECTION: 07 25 00 - Water-Resistive Barriers/Weather Barriers

SECTION: 07 27 00 - Air Barriers

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## 1 PRODUCTS EVALUATED<sup>2</sup>

### 1.1 Foam Plastic Insulation Products

- 1.1.1 Atlas Roofing Corporation – Stucco Shield®, EnergyShield® CGF, EnergyShield® CGF Pro, EnergyShield®, EnergyShield® Pro, EnergyShield® Pro2, ThermalStar, ThermalStar LWi, ThermalStar GPS, ThermalStar T&G, and ThermalStar SWi
- 1.1.2 BASF Corporation – Neopor®, Neopor® ThermaPlus™
- 1.1.3 DuPont de Nemours, Inc. – Thermax™ ci Exterior, Thermax™ Heavy Duty, Thermax™ Heavy Duty Plus, Thermax™ Light Duty, Thermax™ Metal Building Board, Thermax™, Thermax™ White Finish, Isocast™ R, Super Tuff-R™, Super Tuff-R™ C, Tuff-R™, Tuff-R™ C, and Styrofoam™
- 1.1.4 Hunter Panels – Xci Foil (Class A), Xci CG (Class A), Xci 286, Xci Ply (Class A), Xci Foil, Xci CG, Xci Ply, and Xci NB
- 1.1.5 Kingspan Insulation, LLC – GreenGuard® Insulation Boards: CM, SL, SLX, PLYGOOD, and Fanfold Products
- 1.1.6 Rmax – Durasheath®, ECOMAXci® Ply, ECOMAXci® Wall Solution, R-Matte® Plus-3, ThermaBase-CI™, Thermasheath®, Thermasheath®-SI, Thermasheath®-XP, TSX-8500, TSX-8510, ECOMAXci® FR, ECOMAXci® FR Ply, and ECOMAXci® FR White

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<sup>1</sup> The Foam Sheathing Committee (FSC) of the American Chemistry Council sponsors research and tools to support the reliable, efficient, and economic design and installation of foam sheathing. This report is developed by DrJ from a grant provided by FSC. Learn more about foam sheathing at [continuousinsulation.org](http://continuousinsulation.org).

<sup>2</sup> For more information, visit [drjengineering.org](http://drjengineering.org) or call us at 608-310-6748.



## 2 APPLICABLE CODES AND STANDARDS<sup>3,4</sup>

### 2.1 Codes

- 2.1.1 *IBC—15, 18, 21: International Building Code®*
- 2.1.2 *IRC—15, 18, 21: International Residential Code®*

## 3 EVALUATION SCOPE

- 3.1 This research report covers the use of foam plastic insulating sheathing (FPIS) when used as exterior wall sheathing or in exterior walls in Type V construction as defined by the *IBC* and detailed in [IBC Section 504](#) and [Section 506<sup>5</sup>](#).
  - 3.1.1 Type VA and VB construction is acceptable for almost all occupancy groups (VB is not permitted for H-1 and I-2).
    - 3.1.1.1 Type VA requires a 1-hour fire-resistance rating for exterior bearing walls.
    - 3.1.1.2 Type VB requires no fire-resistance rating (see [IBC Table 601](#) and [Table 705.5<sup>6</sup>](#)).

**602.1.1 Minimum requirements.** A building or portion thereof shall not be required to conform to the details of a type of construction higher than that type which meets the minimum requirements based on occupancy even though certain features of such a building actually conform to a higher type of construction.
- 3.2 The use of FPIS in exterior walls in or on exterior walls in Type I, II, III, or IV construction, as defined by the *IBC*, are covered in separate research reports<sup>7</sup>.
- 3.3 The use of FPIS as a water-resistive barrier (WRB) or air barrier as defined by the *IBC* is outside the scope of this research report.
- 3.4 Products approved for use in Type V construction are included in Table 1.
- 3.5 This research report is a code compliance evaluation report that is intended to supplement existing product certifications and is intended only to provide information on the products approved for the manufacturers listed in Section 1 of this report. For the purposes of this report, DrJ is not certifying the products, but rather is providing the user with direction on where to obtain specific information for the products shown. For specific details on the products found in Table 1, see the manufacturer's code evaluation reports or listings.
- 3.6 Any code compliance issues not specifically addressed in this section are outside the scope of this DRR.
- 3.7 Any engineering evaluation conducted for this DRR was performed within DrJ's professional scope of work on the dates provided herein.

## 4 APPLICATIONS

- 4.1 *Code Requirements for Foam Plastic Insulation when Used in or on Exterior Walls in Type V Construction*
  - 4.1.1 The requirements are similar in all four versions of the *IBC*.
    - 4.1.1.1 It is the responsibility of the user to apply the requirements of the specific edition used in the jurisdiction where the structure is to be built.
    - 4.1.1.2 It is also the responsibility of the user to verify the certifications listed in code evaluation reports.

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<sup>3</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all references in this DRR are from the 2021 version of the codes and the standards referenced therein. This material, design, or method of construction also complies with the 2000-2018 versions of the referenced codes and the standards referenced therein.

<sup>4</sup> All terms defined in the applicable building codes are italicized.

<sup>5</sup> [2012 IBC Table 503](#)

<sup>6</sup> [2018 IBC Table 602](#)

<sup>7</sup> [DRR 1202-01](#), [DRR 1202-04](#)



- 4.1.2 Requirements for foam plastic insulation in or on exterior walls of buildings of any height are given in IBC Section 2603.5.
- 4.1.2.1 The requirements for use in Type V construction are given in the second to last sentence (emphasis added).

**2603.5 Exterior walls of buildings of any height.** Exterior walls of buildings of Type I, II, III or IV construction of any height shall comply with Sections 2603.5.1 through 2603.5.7. Exterior walls of cold storage buildings required to be constructed of noncombustible materials, where the building is more than one story in height, shall comply with the provisions of Sections 2603.5.1 through 2603.5.7. Exterior walls of buildings of Type V construction shall comply with Sections 2603.2, 2603.3 and 2603.4. Fireblocking shall be in accordance with Section 718.2.

4.2 *Product Code Compliance*

- 4.2.1 The referenced code sections require specific labeling and physical properties.
- 4.2.2 Table 1 shows the FPIS products from Section 1 that meet all the requirements in IBC Section 2603.2, Section 2603.3, and Section 2603.4 for use in Type V construction.
  - 4.2.2.1 The specific requirements of these sections are found in Section 4.3.
  - 4.2.2.2 Consult the manufacturer’s installation instructions and associated evaluation report for details specific to the intended application.

TABLE 1. PRODUCT CODE COMPLIANCE

Manufacturer	Product	Evaluation Report	<u>2603.2</u> Labeling	<u>2603.3</u> FSI / SDI'	<u>2603.4</u> Thermal Barrier Required <sup>3,4,5</sup>	<u>2603.4.1.6</u> Ignition Barrier Required <sup>4,5</sup>
Atlas Roofing Corporation	Stucco-Shield®	<u>ESR-1375</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y
	EnergyShield® CGF	<u>ESR-1375</u> Intertek Warnock Hersey Directory	Y	Y	Y	N
	EnergyShield® CGF Pro	<u>TER 1306-03</u> <u>UL BRYX</u> <u>13089</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y
	EnergyShield®	<u>ESR-1375</u> , Intertek Warnock Hersey Directory	Y	Y	Y	N
	EnergyShield® Pro	<u>TER 1306-03</u> <u>ESR-1375</u> UL BRYX.13089, Intertek Warnock Hersey Directory	Y	Y	Y	Y



Manufacturer	Product	Evaluation Report	2603.2 Labeling	2603.3 FSI / SDI <sup>1</sup>	2603.4 Thermal Barrier Required <sup>3,4,5</sup>	2603.4.1.6 Ignition Barrier Required <sup>4,5</sup>
	EnergyShield® Pro2	<u>TER 1306-03</u> UL BRYX.13089, Intertek Warnock Hersey Directory	Y	Y	N	N
	ThermalStar	<u>ESR-1962</u> , <u>ULEX.R16529</u>	Y	Y	N	N
	ThermalStar LWi		Y	Y	N	N
	ThermalStar GPS	<u>ULEX.R16529</u>	Y	Y	N	N
	ThermalStar T&G	<u>ESR 1962</u> , <u>ULEX.R16529</u>	Y	Y	N	N
	ThermalStar SWi	<u>TER 1905-02</u> , <u>ULEX.R16529</u>	Y	Y	Y	N
BASF Corporation	Neopor®	<u>ESR-3463</u> <u>ULEX.R5817-02</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Neopor® ThermaPlus™	<u>ESR-4431</u>	Y	Y	Y	Y
DuPont de Nemours, Inc.	Thermax™ ci Exterior	<u>ESR-1659</u>	Y	Y	N	N
	Thermax™ Heavy Duty		Y	Y	N	N
	Thermax™ Heavy Duty Plus		Y	Y	N	N
	Thermax™ Light Duty		Y	Y	N	N
	Thermax™ Metal Building Board		Y	Y	N	N
	Thermax™		Y	Y	N	N
	Thermax™ White Finish	Y	Y	N	N	
	Isocast™ R	<u>ESR-3089</u>	Y	Y	Y	N
	Super Tuff-R™		Y	Y	Y	N
	Super Tuff-R™ C		Y	Y	Y	N
	Tuff-R™		Y	Y	Y	N
	Tuff-R™ C	<u>ESR-3089</u>	Y	Y	Y	N
	Styrofoam™	<u>ESR-2142</u>	Y	Y	N	N
Hunter Panels	Xci Foil (Class A) Xci CG (Class A)	<u>TER 1402-01</u>	Y	Y	Y	N
	Xci 286 Xci Ply (Class A)		Y	Y	Y	N
	Xci Foil	<u>TER 1402-02</u>	Y	Y	Y	N
	Xci CG		Y	Y	Y	N
	Xci Ply		Y	Y	N	N
	Xci NB	<u>TER 1508-01</u>	Y	Y	Y/N	N



Manufacturer	Product	Evaluation Report	2603.2 Labeling	2603.3 FSI / SDI <sup>1</sup>	2603.4 Thermal Barrier Required <sup>3,4,5</sup>	2603.4.1.6 Ignition Barrier Required <sup>4,5</sup>
Kingspan	GreenGuard® CM	TER 1407-03	Y	Y	Y	Y
	GreenGuard® SL		Y	Y	Y	Y
	GreenGuard® SLX		Y	Y	Y	Y
	GreenGuard® PLYGOOD		Y	Y	Y	Y
	GreenGuard® Fanfold		Y	Y	Y	Y
Rmax	Thermasheath®	TER 1309-03 ESR-1864	Y	Y	Y	N
	ECOMAXci® Ply	TER 1504-04	Y	Y	Y	N
	ECOMAXci® Wall Solution	TER 1212-03 Intertek Warnock Hersey Directory	Y	Y	Y	N
	Durasheath®, R-Matte® Plus-3	Intertek Warnock Hersey Directory	Y	Y	Y	Y
	ThermaBase-CI™	TER 1504-05	Y	Y	Y	N
	Thermasheath®-SI	TER 1207-01	Y	Y	N	N
	Thermasheath®-XP ECOMAXci®FR ECOMAXci®FR White TSX-8500 TSX-8510	TER 1309-03 ESR-1864	Y	Y	N	N
	ECOMAXci® FR Ply	TER 1811-02	Y	Y	N	N

1. Flame Spread Index / Smoke Developed Index
2. The evaluation reports listed reference specific codes and versions of those codes. Consult the evaluation report for use with specific code versions.
3. To meet required 15-minute thermal barrier, sheathing must be 1-9/32" or thicker per *IBC Table 722.6.2(1)*.
4. Where a product is noted as approved for use without a thermal barrier, consult the manufacturer's code approval report to restrictions or appropriate uses without a thermal barrier. Where a product is noted as approved for use without an ignition barrier, consult the manufacturer's code approval report to restrictions or appropriate uses without an ignition barrier.
5. Thermal or ignition barrier not required in attics and crawl spaces in accordance with *IBC Section 2603.4.1.6*

4.3 Code Requirements

4.3.1 Not all of *IBC Section 2603.2*, *Section 2603.3*, and *Section 2603.4* are applicable to exterior walls. Table 2 summarizes the code requirements for FPIS used in or on exterior walls in Type V construction.



TABLE 2. CODE REQUIREMENTS

Code Section	Section Title	Summary of Requirements
<a href="#">2603.2</a>	Labeling and identification	Packaging or components requires label of an approved agency
<a href="#">2603.3</a>	Surface-burning characteristics	To 4" thickness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flame spread index of not more than 75</li> <li>Smoke-developed index of not more than 450</li> <li>Tested in accordance with <i>ASTM E84</i> or <i>UL 723</i></li> </ul> Greater than 4" thickness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exception 4 – see Section 2603.9<sup>8</sup> below</li> </ul>
<a href="#">2603.4</a>	Thermal barrier	Installation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Separation from interior of building by approved thermal barrier (i.e., ½" gypsum wallboard)</li> </ul>
<a href="#">2603.4.1</a>	Thermal barrier not required	The thermal barrier specified in Section 2603.4 is not required under the conditions set forth in Sections 2603.4.1.1 through 2603.4.1.14.
<a href="#">2603.4.1.4</a>	One-story buildings	Installation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Separation from interior of building by ignition barrier</li> <li>Flame spread index of not more than 25</li> <li>Smoke-developed index of not more than 450</li> </ul> Less than 4" thickness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Covered by aluminum or steel of required thickness</li> <li>Building sprinklered per 903.3.1.1</li> </ul>
<a href="#">2603.4.1.6</a>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1½"-thick (38 mm) mineral fiber insulation</li> <li>¼"-thick (6.4 mm) wood structural panel, particleboard or hardboard</li> <li>⅜" (9.5 mm) gypsum wallboard</li> <li>Corrosion-resistant steel having a base metal thickness of 0.016" (0.4 mm)</li> <li>(<i>IBC 2015 and 2018 only</i>) 1½"-thick (38 mm) self-supported spray applied cellulose insulation in attic spaces only</li> <li>Other approved material installed in such a manner that the foam plastic insulation is not exposed.</li> <li>The protective covering shall be consistent with the requirements for the type of construction.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">2603.4.1.13</a>	Type V Construction	Foam plastic spray applied to a sill plate and header of Type V construction is subject to all of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The maximum thickness of the foam plastic shall be 3¼ inches (82.6 mm).</li> <li>The density of the foam plastic shall be in the range of 1.5 to 2.0 pcf (24 to 32 kg/m<sup>3</sup>).</li> <li>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 <i>ASTM E84</i> or <i>UL 723</i>.</li> </ol>

<sup>8</sup> [2012 IBC Section 2603.10](#)



Code Section	Section Title	Summary of Requirements
2603.9 <sup>9</sup>	Special approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance with requirements of Sections 2303.4 through 2303.8 are not required where the product has been specifically approved based on large-scale testing (<i>NFPA 286</i>, <i>FM 4880</i>, <i>UL 1040</i> or <i>UL 1715</i>) that relates to the actual end-use configuration using the maximum thickness intended for use.</li> <li>(<i>IBC 2015</i> and <i>2018</i> only) Foam plastic shall not be required to comply with the requirements of Sections 2603.4 or those of Section 2603.6 where specifically approved based on large-scale tests such as, but not limited to, <i>NFPA 286</i> (with the acceptance criteria of Section 803.2), <i>FM 4880</i>, <i>UL 1040</i> or <i>UL 1715</i>. Such testing shall be related to the actual end-use configuration and be performed on the finished manufactured foam plastic assembly in the maximum thickness intended for use.</li> </ul>

## 5 INSTALLATION

- 5.1 The products listed in this report shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer’s installation instructions.
- 5.2 For applications outside the scope of this research report, an engineered design is required.

## 6 SUBSTANTIATING DATA

- 6.1 Manufacturer reports as listed in Table 1.
- 6.2 Manufacturer DrJ Technical Evaluation Reports (TER) as listed in Table 1.
- 6.3 Manufacturer UL Evaluation Reports and Classification Listings as listed in Table 1.
- 6.4 Manufacturer Intertek Classification Listings as listed in Table 1.
- 6.5 Information contained herein is the result of testing and/or data analysis by sources which conform to IBC Section 1703 and relevant professional engineering regulations. DrJ relies on accurate data from these sources to perform engineering analysis.
- 6.6 Where appropriate, DrJ’s analysis is based on provisions that have been codified into law through state or local adoption of codes and standards. The providers of the codes and standards are legally responsible for their content. DrJ analysis may use code-adopted provisions as a control sample. A control sample versus a test sample establishes a product as being equivalent to that prescribed in this code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, and safety. Where the accuracy of the provisions provided herein is reliant upon the published properties of materials, DrJ relies upon the grade mark, grade stamp, mill certificate, and/or test data provided by material suppliers to be minimum properties. DrJ analysis relies upon these properties to be accurate.

## 7 FINDINGS

- 7.1 When used and installed in accordance with this DRR and the manufacturer’s installation instructions, the product(s) listed in Section 1.1 meet the requirements of the *IBC* for use in buildings of Type V construction in accordance with IBC Section 2603.
- 7.2 This product has been evaluated in the context of the codes listed in Section 2 and is compliant with all known state and local building codes. Where there are known variations in state or local codes applicable to this evaluation, they are listed here.
  - 7.2.1 No known variations
- 7.3 Building codes require data from valid research reports be obtained from approved sources (i.e., licensed registered design professionals [RDPs]).
  - 7.3.1 Building official approval of a licensed RDP is performed by verifying the RDP and/or their business entity is listed by the licensing board of the relevant jurisdiction.

<sup>9</sup> 2012 IBC Section 2603.10





7.4 IBC Section 104.11 (IRC Section R104.11 and IFC Section 104.10<sup>10</sup> are similar) states:

**104.11 Alternative materials, design and methods of construction and equipment.** The provisions of this code are not intended to prevent the installation of any material or to prohibit any design or method of construction not specifically prescribed by this code...Where the alternative material, design or method of construction is not approved, the building official shall respond in writing, stating the reasons the alternative was not approved.

## 8 REFERENCES

8.1 The Foam Sheathing Committee (FSC) of the American Chemistry Council sponsors research and tools to support the reliable, efficient, and economic design and installation of foam sheathing. This report is developed by DrJ from a grant provided by FSC. Learn more about foam sheathing at [continuousinsulation.org](http://continuousinsulation.org).

## 9 CONDITIONS OF USE

- 9.1 Where required by the *building official*, also known as the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) in which the project is to be constructed, this DRR and the installation instructions shall be submitted at the time of *permit* application.
- 9.2 Any generally accepted engineering calculations needed to show compliance with this DRR shall be submitted to the AHJ for review and approval.
- 9.3 Design loads shall be determined in accordance with the building code adopted by the *jurisdiction* in which the project is to be constructed and/or by the building designer (e.g., *owner* or RDP).
- 9.4 At a minimum, this product shall be installed per Section 5 of this DRR.
- 9.5 This product is manufactured under a third-party quality control program in accordance with IBC Section 104.4 and Section 110.4 and IRC Section R104.4 and Section R109.2.
- 9.6 The implementation of this DRR for this product is dependent on the design, quality control, third-party quality assurance, proper implementation of installation instructions, inspections required by IBC Section 110.3, and any other code or regulatory requirements that may apply.

## 10 IDENTIFICATION

- 10.1 The products listed in Section 1.1 are identified by a label on the board or packaging material bearing the manufacturer's name, product name, label of the third-party inspection agency, and other information to confirm code compliance.
- 10.2 Additional technical information can be found at the respective FSC member websites found at [fsc.americanchemistry.com/Members](http://fsc.americanchemistry.com/Members).

## 11 REVIEW SCHEDULE

11.1 For the most recent version or current status of this DRR, visit [drjengineering.org](http://drjengineering.org) or contact [DrJ Engineering](http://DrJ Engineering).

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<sup>10</sup> 2018 IFC Section 104.9