Subject Title: FOAM PLASTIC INSULATION  
Applicable Code: FBC, 2020, 603.1, 803.4, 2603.4, 2603.5.2, and 2603.9  
Date: April 17, 2012  Revised: May 10, 2023

**Question:**  
When is a thermal barrier required for the installation of foam plastic insulation above a ceiling of fixed or removable construction?

**Answer:**  
A thermal barrier is required over foam insulation. An exception is for products not in a plenum and classified as a Class A finish materials complying with test requirements listed in FBC-B 2603.9 and Chapter 8 when installed in the manner tested.

The applicant or designer shall submit a copy of the test reports that include a complete description of the tested installation. The project drawings shall reflect the details of the required installation.

**Question:**  
What classifies as an approved thermal barrier?

**Answer:**  
½” gypsum wallboard or a material that is tested in accordance with and meets the acceptance criteria of both the Temperature Transmission Fire Test and the Integrity Fire Test of NFPA 275.