



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Subject Title: FOAM INSULATION
Applicable Codes: 2010 FBC Sections 423.7.7, 603, 2603.5.2, 2603.9, Ch. 8
Date: April 17, 2012

Question:

When is a thermal barrier required for the installation of foam insulation board 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 is a thermal barrier?

Answer:

A thermal barrier is a minimum ½” gypsum wallboard or equivalent material that limits the average temperature rise of the unexposed surface to no more than 250°F after 15 minutes.

Comment:

The building code allows for special approval of these products in section 2603.5.2. Products classified as Class A can be installed in any exposed location within any building. When reviewed in their entirety, Code provisions support the approval of the subject installation.

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