

October 13, 2016

To: Fabricators of ITW Insulation Systems' XPS Pipe Insulation Billet

Re: XPS PIPE INSULATION BILLET PRODUCED WITH NEW FIRE RETARDANT

Dear Valued ITWIS Customer,

Historically, the fire retardant (FR) used in the manufacture of XPS Pipe Insulation Billet (PIB) has been a chemical called HBCD (hexabromocyclododecane). HBCD has been undergoing increased scrutiny by the regulatory agencies of various countries which has culminated in some countries, including Canada and Japan, banning the use of HBCD in XPS insulation. Work began more than 10 years ago to develop an alternative to the use of HBCD and we are happy to report that an alternative FR material was developed. This new FR will be used starting immediately as the time-table for Canada's prohibition of the use of HBCD has advanced to Jan. 1, 2017.

All of the good end-use properties of XPS PIB will be maintained with this new FR and the flammability performance will actually improve. The SDS will stay the same and the only change to the technical data sheet will be in the area of ASTM E84 flame spread and smoke developed values.

The use of this new FR does result in the presence of a significant star pattern in the XPS PIB billets. This is shown in the picture below.



When this type of star pattern was seen in the past with the current HBCD containing version of XPS PIB, it was often associated with fabricability problems. Fabrication testing of the new XPS PIB even

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with the star pattern present has shown no reduction in the excellent fabricability of XPS PIB but we continue to monitor this and ask that our fabricators watch for and report any fabrication problems they encounter with the new XPS PIB. It is possible that the fabricability of XPS PIB will be slightly reduced as a result of the use of the new FR and we want to be alerted to any occurrences of this.

The Canadian regulations prohibit the import of XPS made with HBCD where the XPS was manufactured after Jan. 1, 2017. However, these regulations make a clear exception for XPS produced prior to this date. Therefore, any XPS PIB made with the old FR including older cores can still be used in the USA or Canada without a problem since all of this XPS was manufactured prior to the Jan. 1, 2017 date.

ITWIS would appreciate it if you would share this letter with any of your direct customers, contractors, facility owners, engineers, or specifiers who you think would be interested or benefit from this information. ITWIS will also be posting this letter on our website.

If you have any questions about XPS PIB made with the new FR or any other topic, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

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