

**§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. [RR 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. [PL 1981, c. 101 (NEW).] [RR 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. [PL 1979, c. 167 (NEW).]

**3. Penalty.** Any violation of this section shall be a Class E crime. [PL 1979, c. 167 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

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

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Special Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature and is current through January 1, 2026. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.