

## Subject: F.M. Insulation News - March 2010

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### Our Product List



We work hard to bring you Australia's most complete range of Insulation Materials and Accessories.

[Download](#) our current stocklisting.

### F.M. Insulation Supplies

A division of Flavell Management & Industrial Services Pty Ltd  
ABN 90067 287 307

10 Bromley Road,  
Emy Plains, NSW, 2750  
[www.fminsulation.com.au](http://www.fminsulation.com.au)

# FM Insulation News

March 2010

**Dear Customer,**

Here we are, almost at the end of the first quarter of 2010. After a relatively quiet December & January, sales in February & March have been strong. Does this indicate that 2010 is going to be a good year for our industry?

Since the last newsletter there have been many changes in our industry. For the first time in memory, insulation is front page news. Unfortunately for all of the wrong reasons. If there is any truth in the saying "there's no such thing as bad publicity" our industry is in for a bonanza. Somehow, however, I doubt that any good will come out of the current situation.

## New Products

### ***48kg/M3 fibreglass blanket***

The demand for our top quality Polyglass 48kg/M3 glasswool blanket has exceeded our expectations. This is now a standard stock item and is available in roll sizes 1220mm x 7.5M x 50mm & 1220mm x 15M x 25mm.

### ***R1.5 Foil faced glass wool blanket (15kg/M3)***



Sales of the R1.5, lightweight foil faced, blankets continue to be strong. We have seen lots of use by builders for underslab & roofing, duct installers, & ladders in the past few months. Supplied in rolls 15M x 1200mm with a lightweight foil facing to one side this product is available at very competitive rates.

### ***Foil Faced Chemically Cross Linked Polyethylene***

After a hesitant start here in NSW, sales of our foil faced chemically cross linked polyethylene pipe insulation have soared since Christmas. We now have stock of all sizes from 12.7mm odp to 152.4mm odp in 25mm, 40mm & 50mm thicknesses. Larger sizes are also available on approx 6 weeks turnaround.

This product is very competitively priced as an alternative for styrene or glasswool spi on both chilled & hot water services. It has been extensively tested in Australia and meets all requirements of the BCA. Updated stock & price lists were circulated to all buyers of this range in early November 2009

Phone  
(02) 4735 5699

Fax  
(02) 4735 5799



For more information on these products please visit our [website](#) or phone Mike on 02 4735 5699

## Money Matters

### *Pricing*

Due to the strong exchange rate (\$Aus -v- \$US) we have been able to maintain pricing on most imported product lines at 2009, in some instances 2008 levels. New price lists for the two product lines that have been increased from 1-2-2010, insulation pins & ceramic/csm fibre blankets have been circulated to all customers that use these products. If for any reason you have not received these revised price lists, please contact Karl and he will arrange copies for you. Providing the \$Aus stays around \$US0.90 we do not expect to review prices again this year.

### *Credit Card Facility*

For those of our customers that are not regular buyers, and for those who collect frequent flyer points we now have credit card facilities for easy payment of your accounts. Obviously, terms and conditions apply to such payments. If you require further information please contact Karl.

## ARBS Exhibition - Darling Harbour - April 12-14th 2010



As all of you in the commercial insulation field will be aware, the bi-annual ARBS exhibition is being held this year at Darling Harbour Sydney. Once again FM Insulation Supplies will be exhibiting. This is our third successive ARBS exhibition and we look forward to meeting as many old and new customers as possible. If you would like a VIP invitation please contact Karl as soon as possible & we will try and organise this for you. Our stand is number 436 located in hall 4, on the boundary of hall 3. As you go through the entrance turn to your right and we are a couple of rows back.

## Application Note

### *Off-gassing from fibrous insulation*

We have had a number of queries recently over the fumes given off from both rockwool and fibreglass when exposed to "high" temperatures. Here is the explanation why this happens.

Fibreglass & rockwool blankets, slabs & sections all contain a resin binder. The amount of binder varies from product to product. Generally speaking, the more rigid the product, the more binder will be contained in the product. It does not matter which company produces the material, product for product, the amount of binder will be similar. The higher the operating temperature that the product is exposed to, the more burn-off of binder will occur. Burn-off of binder from rockwool commences when the insulation reaches a temperature around 300C. Burn-off of binder from fibreglass / glasswool occurs when the insulation reaches a temperature around 175C.

In outdoor applications, the fumes generated by burn-off of binder mostly go un-noted. However in indoor applications, the sudden appearance of smoke can cause a degree of panic, as recently happened on one project where rockwool blanket had been installed on a co-gen exhaust pipe in a

Sydney CBD building. After much discussion, and temporary suspension of system commissioning, it was accepted by all concerned parties that this was a normal occurrence. Commissioning was recommenced and burn-off ceased after about four hours.

It is recommended that all contractor customers point out the likelihood of burn-off occurring to their customers prior to commissioning of systems. To minimise or eliminate this problem with rockwool products, either use a wired mat product (wired mat tends to have less binder) or use a needled product such as our cal-sil-mag fibre which has no binder. One of our contractor customers advises that on exhaust systems located on multi-storey sites he silicone-seals all cladding joints from the generator to the riser so that gasses do not escape into the plant room. The emitted gasses are classed as "nuisance fumes" but can cause running eyes & shortage of breath, so please exercise caution particularly in enclosed areas.

## **Around the traps**

### ***New Power Stations***

At long last, almost 20 years since the last major Power Station in NSW came online, the NSW Government has announced plans for new power station units to be built at Bayswater in the Upper Hunter Valley and at Mt Piper North West of Lithgow.

The plans are very preliminary at this stage and debate continues over the fuel source for the stations. Either gas or coal are the two fuels currently being discussed. Considering the location of these stations on major coal fields one would have to think that coal is the odds on favourite to be the fuel source chosen.

### ***Movement away from styrene pipe insulation***

A number of consultants, architects, developers and building owners are now specifying "styrene free" buildings.

This follows on from the decision some years ago to move away from styrene panels in large coolroom construction. This had been instigated by insurance underwriters refusing in many instances, to insure new coolrooms manufactured from styrene panel following a number of major fires in such structures.

## **Website updates**

We have added a lot of pages to our [website](#) over the past year, particularly in the datasheet area. We regularly review our information and ways to make it easy to find and use. Your suggestions are always welcome at [info@fminsulation.com.au](mailto:info@fminsulation.com.au)

As always, please let us know your requirements. We're only a phone call away.

**Sincerely,**

Mike Flavell  
F.M. Insulation Supplies

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