

## Subject: F.M. Insulation News - June 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)

Phone

## FM Insulation News

June 2010

**Dear Customer,**

The end of the financial year is just around the corner and the new one beckons. At this time of year we, probably like many of our customers, have to provide our insurers with accurate sales figures for each product class sold in the current financial year together with estimates of sales for the same products for the coming year.

This exercise highlights to us how new products that we have introduced have performed & how they are expected to perform in the coming year. It also allows us to review sales of traditional products such as Glasswool & rockwool pipe insulation, rockwool blankets & slabs, and hangers & pins etc.

In previewing sales for the coming year one thing that we can be sure of is that domestic Glasswool batts will not figure very highly.

### New Products

Review of products introduced in financial year 2009 -2010

#### Therm-o-lag Chemically Cross Linked Polyethylene



The star performer of our new products over the past year has without doubt been our Therm-o-lag brand of Chemically Cross Linked Polyethylene pipe insulation. This product, manufactured on our behalf in South Korea, has been fully tested in Australia for AS1530 part 3, R-values, and VOC & Formaldehyde emissions.

It is suitable for use on both chilled water & hot water piping & vessels in public, commercial and domestic buildings, as well as process systems operating from minus 70C to plus 95C.

#### ITW Perlite pipe insulation & slab

(02) 4735 5699

Fax

(02) 4735 5799



Over the past twelve months we have also introduced perlite pipe insulation to our industrial insulation contracting customers.

They have traditionally used calcium silicate pipe insulation in applications on Power Stations, Oil Refineries, and Process Plants.

These industries have previously specified calcium silicate for it's ability to maintain it's shape, and hence it's insulating properties, after being

stepped on. Unlike Glasswool & rockwool these materials will take the weight of an operative standing on it, when clad with sheet metal, without damage.

Although identical in appearance, texture, weight & thermal performance to calcium silicate Perlite has a number of advantages over calcium silicate these relate specifically to a phenomena known as "corrosion under insulation" or CUI (see our application note below).

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

## **Application Note**

### **Corrosion under insulation (CUI)**

CUI occurs when water or moisture enters the insulation system and combines with the chlorides in the insulation to form Hydrochloric acid, corroding the underlying pipe.

Over the years, manufacturers & installers have endeavored to reduce or eliminate this problem by reducing, but not eliminating, the chloride content of insulants and by trying to make cladding weatherproof. That CUI continues to be a problem, indicates that, no matter how hard manufacturers and installers have tried, creating a low chloride, weatherproof system is very difficult.

Perlite products work on the principle that a totally weatherproof system is unlikely to be achieved. By the inclusion of a high concentration of soluble silicate of soda in the product, any chloride will be neutralised by the silicate and CUI eliminated.

So successful is this product in eliminating CUI, that a number of major international designers and constructors are exclusively specifying perlite or foamglass for insulation projects in petro-chemical projects and plants.

Perlite offers additional advantages over foamglass on 'above ambient' systems, primarily cost and the fact that joints need not be sealed to prevent ingress of moisture during on-off cycles.

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



The ARBS exhibition has been and gone. A large number of existing and potentially new customers visited our stand. Unfortunately the "small print" prevented us supplying VIP passes to all of our customers who had requested them. To those who missed out on VIP passes we apologise.

The next ARBS Exhibition will be in Melbourne in 2012 and no doubt we will once again exhibit there. We look forward to catching up with our Victorian customers in 2012.

## **Around the traps**

### **Continuing movement away from styrene pipe insulation**

In our last Newsletter we reported on the move away, by a number of consultants, architects, developers and building owners, from polystyrene insulation. This move appears to be gathering pace with, in some instances, perhaps illogical results.

At the recent (24-5-2010) meeting of The Insulation Contractors Association of Australia (NSW Branch) concern was expressed by a number of contractors that some consultants had instructed that only materials approved by Factory Mutual Approvals (a USA based testing organisation) be used.

The problem encountered is that the Factory Mutual approval list is very limited and none of the approved products are readily available in Australia up to the sizes required.

Also, the approval seems to limit the application of products in respect to (a) applied material thickness, (b) size of the item to be insulated, and (c) the number of layers that can be applied under the approval.

At the request of TICA I have produced a "discussion paper" on the Factory Mutual Approvals process. If you would like a copy of this paper please contact me.

## **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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F.M. Insulation | 10 Bromley Road | Emu Plains | NSW | 2750 | Australia

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