



Quick Links

[Insulation Materials](#)
[Insulation Accessories](#)
[About Us](#)
[Newsletter Archive](#)
[Website](#)

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

Unit 6, 10 Bromley Road,
Emy Plains, NSW, 2750
www.fminsulation.com.au

Phone
(02) 4735 5699

Fax
(02) 4735 5799



FM Insulation News

December 2012

Greetings!

Right on time with this edition of the newsletter, just in time for the Christmas - New Year break.

Year in review



Looking back on 2012 it has been a bit of a mixed bag, we have had some very busy periods together with some very slack periods. Every company we have spoken to has experienced similar conditions. We have increased our staff this year with the addition of Todd McGregor, who most of you will have met by now.

The closure of the Shell refinery at Clyde earlier in the year and the closure of the Caltex refinery at Kurnell that is due next year has impacted on sales of industrial products. Balancing this has been the huge increase in sales of our range of polyethylene / polyolefin products. The new products that we have introduced this year have in the main been well accepted, although the Roxul Fire Damper Strip & Party Wall batts have not really taken off.

The FSK faced rockwool & fibreglass pipe sections have been very well received and the range of sizes increases with each incoming container. As noted in an earlier newsletter the great advantage, gained at minimal cost, when using FSK faced sections is the minimisation of fibre release during application in OH & S sensitive areas when lagging is to be later clad.

As noted earlier there has been a huge increase in sales of polyethylene / polyolefin pipe & sheet insulation. As a result we have increased our volume of stock & also increased the range of sheet stocked. In addition to 25mm thickness we now stock sheet in 10mm, 15mm & 20mm. We also stock 15mm sheet with self adhesive back.

Technical Note - Use of Rockwool Pipe Sections at Fire Walls



Ever since I have been in this industry, almost 40 years, HD foil faced rockwool pipe sections have been applied to insulated steel / copper pipes where they pass through fire walls. This process involves replacing the specified polystyrene or fibreglass with a non-combustible material, rockwool.

The earliest CEBS approval also allowed 80kg fibreglass sections to be used in lieu of rockwool. Initially, I believe, this method was noted in a CEBS (Commonwealth

Experimental Building Station), North Ryde opinion obtained by TICA in the 1970s.

TICA Queensland, in conjunction with CSR Bradford, obtained an assessment from CSIRO Manufacturing & Infrastructure Technology dated 24-9-2003 that lapsed on 30 September 2008. The 2003 assessment superceded an earlier assessment dated 28th November 1997. All of these assessments / approvals involved the use of :

1. Rockwool pipe sections (a non combustible material)
2. HD foil facing (to provide a continuous moisture barrier to the insulation system during it's normal operation)
3. A fire - rated proprietary sealant to be applied to smoke / fire seal the application.

With the expiry of the TICA Qld. assessment to my knowledge there is no current, valid, assessment / approval covering this application. From earlier discussions at TICA NSW meetings it appears that it has never been the practice of insulation contractors to certify the fire rating of such penetrations.

It's assumed that the obligation of the insulation contractor in such applications is limited to the installation of non-combustible insulation & HD facing through the penetration. Such installation is to continue for a certain distance either side of the fire wall.

Most contractors, I understand, install 1000mm sections either side of / through the wall which depending on the thickness of the wall will result in the length of insulation either side of the wall being approx 900mm.

This would appear to be significantly longer than the 2008 TICA Qld. assessment nominated. These applications are then sealed by the Fire Rating Contractor who certifies the application.

Notwithstanding the statement earlier regarding my understanding that there are now no valid assessments /approvals for this application I believe that perhaps some of the fire rated sealant companies may have approvals for insulated penetrations. It may be worth checking.

TICA 2013 conference



As noted in the last newsletter the bi-annual TICA conference will be held during October 2013. It appears that the date has now been changed to October 24th to 27th inclusive. TICA NSW will be sending out information & reservation packages in the New Year.

Christmas Presents

We still have available FMIS 8M tape measures (measuring up to your

demanding standards), 2013 pocket diaries, and rather nice pens. If you'd like Santa to drop any of these items off, please let either Karl, Brendan, or Mike know.

That's it for now it only remains for me to wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year and thank you all for your support throughout 2012. Our office will close on Friday 21st December and re-open on Monday 7th January. We look forward to being of on-going service to you all in 2013.

Mike Flavell
F.M. Insulation Supplies