



PIMA QualityMark^{CM} to Begin Reporting ASTM C 1289-11 LTTR Values

Polyiso certified under PIMA QualityMark^{CM} program has a design R-value of 5.7

Bethesda, MD, June 11, 2013 – The ASTM C 1289 Standard Specification for Faced Rigid Cellular Polyisocyanurate Thermal Insulation Board (ASTM C 1289-11) has been updated and features important improvements regarding the prediction of long-term thermal resistance (“R”) value for a variety of polyiso insulation boards. The PIMA QualityMark^{CM} program, the only third-party program for the certification of the thermal value of polyiso insulation, will begin reporting LTTR values in accordance with ASTM C 1289-11 on January 1, 2014.

The PIMA QualityMark^{CM} Certification program is a voluntary program that allows polyiso manufacturers to obtain independent, third-party certification for the Long Term Thermal Resistance (LTTR) values of their polyiso insulation products. Polyiso is the only insulation to be certified by this unique program for its LTTR value. The program was developed by PIMA and is administered by FM Global.

To participate in PIMA’s QualityMark^{CM} Certification program, a Class 1 roof is suggested to have a design R-value of 5.7 per inch. PIMA member manufacturers will publish updated R-values for their polyiso products later this year. Polyiso is unique in that the R-value increases with the thickness of the foam, so three inches of polyiso has a higher R-value per inch than two inches.

“Since its founding, PIMA has been very active in the harmonization of relevant standards, including ASTM and CAN/ULC, in an effort to provide greater continuity in the reporting of polyiso roof insulation thermal values throughout North America. That is why the association implemented the industry-wide QualityMark^{CM} certified R-value program for rigid polyiso roof insulation in 2004,” said Jared Blum, President, PIMA. “The update to this standard provides more data to aid in the prediction of long-term thermal performance of polyiso insulation, North America’s most popular rigid roof insulation. Polyiso remains the highest R-value per inch of any insulation available.”

In order to provide a comprehensive approach to predicting long-term R-value throughout North America, the updated ASTM C [1289-11](#) standard now incorporates two test methods, ASTM C [1303-11](#) and CAN/ULC-S770-09, which offer a similar approach to predicting the long-term thermal performance for foam insulation materials that exhibit air and blowing agent diffusion or aging over time. Both test methods employ a technique called “slicing and scaling” to accelerate this aging process and provide an accurate and consistent prediction of product R-value after 5 years, which is equivalent to a time-weighted thermal design R-value for 15 years. The update to ASTM C 1289-11 in no way impacts polyiso’s physical properties.

“Our primary goal is to provide building designers and owners and contractors with reliable and consistent information for making accurate thermal insulation decisions,” said Jared Blum, President, PIMA.

For more information about the update to ASTM C 1289-11 and the PIMA QualityMark Program please click [here](#).

About PIMA

For over 25 years, the Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA) has served as the unified voice of the rigid polyiso industry proactively advocating for safe, cost-effective, sustainable and energy efficient construction. PIMA’s members, who first came together in 1987, include a synergistic partnership of polyiso manufacturers and industry suppliers. Polyiso is one of the Nation’s most widely used and cost-effective insulation products available. To learn more visit www.polyiso.org.

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