

**RESCINDED BY BUILDINGS
BULLETIN 2023-021**

**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS**

DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 28, 1980

TO: Borough Superintendents and Executive Staff.
FROM: Marvin Hassman, P.E., Director MEA Division.
SUBJECT: Use of polystyrene or urethane foam insulation.

Enclosed for your advice and guidance, and for distribution to all plan examiners is a copy of correspondence between Mr. Donald Toy, chairman of the Insulation Committee of The Construction Specifications Institute (Metropolitan Chapter) and the writer concerning the use of the subject insulation materials.

Please be guided by the contents of my response to Mr. Toy with respect to applications that are filed, and contact me at 248-8817 on specific questions that may arise.



**Marvin Hassman, P.E.
Director, MEA Division**

**cc: Commissioner Fruchtman
Deputy Commissioner Minkin
Deputy Commissioner Parascandola
Assistant Commissioner Dennis
Executive Staff**

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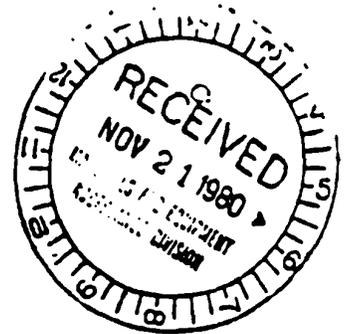
INSULATION & CONSERVATION SYSTEMS, INC.

333 Sixteenth Street, Carlstadt, N.J. 07072
(201) 460-0190

November 19, 1980

Department of Buildings
MEA Division Room 1526
120 Wall Street
New York, N. Y., 10005

Attn: Mr. Marvin Hassman
Director of MEA



Gentlemen:

As Chairman of the Insulation Committee of Metropolitan Chapter of The Construction Specifications Institute, and also an independent Thermal/Acoustical Consultant, a clarification of information is hereby requested.

Because of my association with many Architects and General Contractors, a certain controversy has arisen regarding the use of rigid polystyrene or urethane foam insulation materials in New York City construction.

Specifically, do any polystyrene or urethane insulation products meet the requirements of the Building Codes of the City of New York for use on exterior walls (even though they may be covered with gypsum wall board)?

Many Architects and Contractors are under the belief that the above installations are approved by virtue of past Board of Standards and Appeals approvals submitted or shown to them.

Your clarification of this use of polystyrenes and urethanes will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

INSULATION & CONSERVATION SYSTEMS, INC.


Donald H. Toy C.S.I.
President

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
120 WALL STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10005

IRWIN FRUCHTMAN, P.E. Commissioner
248-8811

November 25, 1980

Mr. Donald H. Toy, C.S.I.
President
Insulation and Conservation Systems, Inc.
333 Sixteenth Street
Carlstadt, NJ 07072

Dear Mr. Toy:

This is in reply to your letter of November 19, 1980 requesting Code clarification regarding thermal/ acoustical insulation materials; and specifically the use of rigid polystyrene or urethane foam insulation materials in New York City construction.

To date the Materials and Equipment Acceptance Division (MEA) has not accepted any polystyrene or urethane insulation products due to their inherent smoke development ratings in ~~excess of the Code limitation of 50 maximum.~~

The above insulation materials may not be used in noncombustible construction when covered with gypsum wallboard. The Code specifically provides that an insulation material which does not comply with the definition of non-combustibility established under Local Law 80 of 1972 shall be covered with three inches of unpierced masonry on all sides.

Prior Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) approval under the old Building Code would not comply with present Code requirements generally due to lack of any testing or only partial testing. Additionally, "new" Code toxicity testing could not have been performed.

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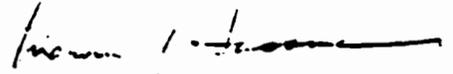
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I trust that this has satisfactorily responded to your inquiry, but I will be happy to address specific design situations that you or your colleagues may pose.

My direct telephone is (212) 248-8817. cc

Very truly yours,



Marvin Hassman, P.E.
Director, MEA Division

cc: Irving E. Minkin, P.E.
Deputy Commissioner

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