



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

BUILDING CODE SERVICES
3661 INTERSTATE PARK ROAD NORTH,
#200 RIVIERA BEACH, FLORIDA 33404
(561) 383-2092



THOMAS HOGARTH, P.E.
DIRECTOR

Subject Title: FOAM PLASTIC INSULATION
Applicable Code: FBC, 2020, 603.1, 803.4, 2603.4, 2603.5.2, and 2603.9
Date: April 17, 2012 Revised: May 10, 2023

Question:

When is a thermal barrier required for the installation of foam plastic insulation above a ceiling of fixed or removable construction?

Answer:

A thermal barrier is required over foam insulation. An exception is for products not in a plenum and classified as a Class A finish materials complying with test requirements listed in FBC-B 2603.9 and Chapter 8 when installed in the manner tested.

The applicant or designer shall submit a copy of the test reports that include a complete description of the tested installation. The project drawings shall reflect the details of the required installation.

Question:

What classifies as an approved thermal barrier?

Answer:

½” gypsum wallboard or a material that is tested in accordance with and meets the acceptance criteria of both the Temperature Transmission Fire Test and the Integrity Fire Test of NFPA 275.