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BREEAM/Insulant Global Warming Potential (GWP)

GRM Distribution Ltd, as the manufacturer of BetaPlus thermal insulation products, receives frequent requests for information regarding the GWP of our product. This note summarises the results of research into the GWP question by us and independent consultants.

Prior to 2008, BREEAM criteria required a GWP no greater than 5. The 2006 guidance for the non-domestic version of BREEAM stated that insulants blown with pentane or carbon dioxide (CO₂) were compliant with this aim. The equivalent 2006 guidance for EcoHomes contained similar wording.

The revised guidance issued in 2007 included the following table:

Table 2: Blowing Agents deemed to satisfy the credit and believed by BRE to have a GWP of less than 5

Air
Carbon dioxide (CO ₂)
Pentane (iso-pentane, cyclopentane, n-pentane)
Isobutane

As stated in our Material Safety Data Sheet, BetaPlus phenolic foam products are blown with pentane and therefore comply with these BREEAM requirements.

BREEAM has now been revised and the latest 2008 guidance documents contain no reference to GWP in respect of insulating foam blowing agents in the Pollution section.

It follows that there is now no requirement to state insulant GWP in BREEAM documentation. However, where projects have to be assessed against earlier BREEAM criteria, pentane blown BetaPlus phenolic foam is deemed by BREEAM to have a GWP less than 5.

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