



# Municipality of Anchorage



## Policy A.05

### Rigid Foam Plastic Insulation Permitted In Crawl Spaces of Combustible Construction

Section 2603.4 of the 2003 International Building Code requires foam plastic to be “separated from the interior of a building by an approved thermal barrier...”. The code does allow a thermal barrier exception for installation in crawl spaces when the following conditions are observed:

1. Entry to the crawl space is only to serve utilities
2. There are no inter-connected basement areas.
3. Air to the crawl space is not circulated to other parts of the building.
4. A vapor barrier is installed on the ground of the crawl space.
5. Ventilation complies with the applicable code, either the 2003 International Building Code, Section 1203.4.1.2 or the 2003 International Residential Code, Section 408.1.
6. The foam plastic insulation is covered with a material such as 1 ½-inch thick (38 mm) mineral fiber insulation, ¼-inch thick (6.4 mm) plywood, hardboard or gypsum wallboard, corrosion-resistant sheet metal having a base metal thickness not less than 0.0160 inch (0.4 mm) at any point, or other approved material installed in such a manner that the foam plastic insulation is not exposed.

The Municipality of Anchorage will continue to accept foam plastic insulation installed in crawl spaces when the above conditions are met.

The following foam may be installed without a covering specified in item 6 above:

Product:	ICBO Report #	Additional Special uses/Conditions for use:
DOW	ER-2257	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Boards cannot exceed 2 inches in thickness and 2.5 PCF density</li> <li>b. Boards are limited to those made from BASF Styropor expandable polystyrene BF grade beads</li> </ol>
Western Insulfoam	3414	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Boards cannot exceed 3 inches in thickness and 2.5 PCF density</li> <li>b. Boards are limited to those made from BASF Styropor expandable polystyrene BF grade beads</li> </ol>
Quad Lock	ER-5188	No additional special requirements.
AFM Corp. Expanded polystyrene insulation	ER 4169	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. EPS thickness not to exceed 3” at one PCF density; EPS not to exceed 2” at two PCF density.</li> <li>b. Limited to boards using BASF Styropor and must be labeled</li> </ol>
Celetex Corp. Thermax Insulation	ER 3223	No additional special requirements.
Insulform EPS concrete forms by Permier Industries	ER 5276	No additional special requirements.

Other products may be acceptable. Manufacturers or dealers should contact Building Safety at the Department of Development Services with the appropriate ICBO evaluation report numbers and data for verification. If thermal barriers are required they must be an approved material or product.

Ron Thompson, Building Official  
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