HBCD statement

HBCD is a brominated flame retardant used as an additive mainly in FRA grade Expanded and Extruded Polystyrene (EPS and XPS) and is referred to as HBCDD by the European Authorities.

HBCD has undergone a thorough EU scientific assessment to identify potential risks for human health and environment and was found that the flame retardant is fully retained in the polymer matrix and as such does not represent a risk to welfare or the environment during the service life and at the end of the life of the product.

HBCD is a fully tested flame retardant that has been used over several decades mainly in energy saving polystyrene insulation boards to protect human lives and property from fire.

Used in very small quantities, the use of HBCD in PS foams provides adequate time for occupants to escape in case of fire.

PS foam boards are lightweight insulation materials that contribute to reducing CO2 emissions in a large variety of applications.

PS foam boards are unique and essential to a number of applications, for which other insulation materials cannot substitute them.

Manufacturers aim to maintain a full portfolio of PS foam products with individual insulation and unique applications and insulating properties to service customer demand and ever more demanding applications means they must continually assess advances in technology.

Currently HBCD has no technically and commercially feasible alternative for insulation applications, despite intensive research, which the industry is committed to continue.

Further information on reaction to fire and the environment can be obtained from www.bpf.co.uk and the European Manufacturers of Expanded Polystyrene, EUMEPS, www.eumeps.org.

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