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## **PIMA Supports Proposed ASHRAE Efficiency Increase**

*Building Envelope Improvements Are the Cornerstone for Predicting Building Performance*

May 15, 2009, Bethesda, MD – The Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA) is in full support of addenda “bb” to ASHRAE Standard 90.1 – 2007. This addendum would raise the thermal requirements for commercial buildings, thus improving the efficiency minimums for various components of the building envelope.

While there are recognizable benefits to increasing the efficiency of HVAC, lighting, water, and other systems, there are no performance characteristics from these improvements that match the longevity of envelope upgrades. The envelope improvements are the cornerstone of the overall predictability of long term building performance and hence the foundation for meeting the zero energy goal for the nation’s buildings in 2030.

“The building envelope is the essential first step in achieving much needed efficiency improvements – especially since the envelope decisions often last for the life of the building while HVAC and other systems may be replaced many times over the building’s life expectancy,” said Jared O. Blum, President of PIMA. “We are pleased ASHRAE has recognized the cost effectiveness of additional roof and wall insulation in all commercial buildings and are equally encouraged by ASHRAE’s goal of improving the nation’s minimum commercial building energy efficiency standard by at least 30%.”

To illustrate its support for Addendum “bb” PIMA and its members have filed comments with ASHRAE. In the comments, PIMA noted its work to improve America’s buildings’ energy performance in a multitude of forums-through codes, standards, incentives, and over fiscal policy encouraging higher efficiency goals. Most recently, PIMA commented in favor of ASHRAE’s initial increase of thermal values for roofs and walls embodied in the 2007 90.1 standard adopted formally by ASHRAE last year.

“The nation remains focused on economic recovery. Improvements to existing buildings – especially improving the minimum standards that govern improvements to the building envelope – have a lasting effect on the building, the economy and overall energy security,” added Blum.

For more information, please see the PIMA website at [www.polyiso.org](http://www.polyiso.org).

**About PIMA**

*For over 20 years, the Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA) has served as the unified voice of the rigid polyiso industry proactively advocating for safe, cost-effective, sustainable and energy efficient construction. PIMA's members, who first came together in 1987, include a synergistic partnership of polyiso manufacturers and industry suppliers. Polyiso is one of the Nation's most widely used and cost-effective insulation products available.*