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PIMA Urges Building Community to Adhere to the Codes

Alexandria, VA— The Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA) has released a position paper urging architects, specifiers and roofing contractors to adhere to building code requirements for fire and wind ratings.

“During the last few years, the core raw material costs for polyiso insulation have risen dramatically,” noted Jared Blum, President of PIMA. “This, coupled with demands from contractors, designers and building owners for highly energy-efficient building products, has created some short-term delays in obtaining polyiso insulation. Some specifiers and installers are considering the use of other roof insulation products to replace polyiso, and thus not building to the code which could endanger lives and property.”

Polyiso roof insulation is the only foam plastic roof insulation board product that meets the strict standards of FM Approvals (Standard 4450) and UL (UL1256) without the use of an additional thermal barrier layer between the insulation and the supporting steel roof deck. In the past, some assemblies with polystyrene insulation gained FM Approvals but only when a properly designed sprinkler system was installed in the building with the rated roofing system. FM Approvals no longer approve roof assemblies which require automatic sprinklers in order to meet fire spread requirements. Currently, all FM Approvals using polystyrene roof insulation on a steel deck require a thermal barrier under the foam.

“PIMA recommends that architects, specifiers and installers check with their polyiso supplier frequently to stay current with market developments and order materials as early in the contract process as possible,” added Blum. “No other insulation product performs like polyiso,

and your efforts to use of the best available high-performance thermal product will contribute to the long term, sustainable performance of your roofing project and insure that your roof meets the code.”

PIMA is the national trade organization that advances the use of polyiso insulation, one of the most widely used and cost-effective insulation products. PIMA’s membership consists of manufacturers and marketers of polyiso insulation, as well as suppliers to the industry. For updates on this topic, please visit the PIMA Web site at www.PIMA.org, or call 703-684-1136.

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