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Cost Effectiveness of Increased Residential Insulation Confirmed

New Report Studies Cost-Effectiveness of Typical Insulation Products

Alexandria, VA – An independent study, measuring the cost effectiveness of increasing insulation in the 2004 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), shows that in every climate zone there is a cost-effective, energy-saving insulation wall scenario that meets the 2004 IECC.

The study, conducted by ICF Consulting, an international management, technology, and policy consulting firm in Baltimore, MD, concluded that the recently adopted levels of insulation in the 2004 IECC will lead to increased savings and create more affordable housing by decreasing immediate and long term utility costs. ICF conducted the study on behalf of the North American Insulation Manufacturers Association (NAIMA) and the Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA).

“The results of this study coupled with the new tax credits for highly energy efficient residential construction included in the recently signed The Energy Policy Act of 2005 are double wins for the nation’s homeowners,” said Jared Blum, President of PIMA. “The team work provided by high performance rigid foam and fiber glass insulations offer homeowners numerous methods to be energy conscious and fiscally responsible at the same time.”

The ICF study tested homes configured with one of four wall insulation scenarios using a combination of common insulation materials that either met or exceeded the proposed code requirements. The study also simulated the annual energy consumption of single-family homes. This data was then compared with homes designed with insulation that falls short of the 2004 IECC.

ICF Consulting calculated the energy reduction into utility bill savings and compared these figures with cost of materials, installation and labor for several construction types. The study took into account regional variations of utility costs, material and labor costs and housing characteristics. More than 1.23 million simulations were conducted. For a copy of the report, go to www.pima.org.

PIMA is the national trade organization that advances the use of polyiso insulation, one of the nations 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 more information, please visit the PIMA Web site at www.pima.org, or call 703-684-1136.