



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL  
AND FINANCIAL REGULATION  
OFFICE OF LICENSING & REGISTRATION  
**MANUFACTURED HOUSING BOARD**  
35 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0035  
TTY/HEARING IMPAIRED (888) 577-6690

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

ANNE L. HEAD  
DIRECTOR  
ROBERT LECLAIR  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

October 14, 2010

RE: Spray foam used as fire blocking in marriage walls.

Dear Board Approved Third Party Inspection Agencies,

On October 6, 2010, the Manufactured Housing Board ("Board") determined that the use of single component polyurethane form sealant (Great Stuff insulating foam sealant, manufactured by Dow Chemical), to fire block marriage walls in manufactured housing, does not meet the minimum code requirements in Maine. Accordingly, foam sealant is not an "approved material" as referenced in the 2003 IRC R602.8.1.

R602.8 of the 2003 IRC notes "[f]ireblocking shall be provided to cut off all concealed draft openings (both vertical and horizontal) and to form an effective fire barrier between stories...." R602.8.1.2 states in pertinent part "[t]he integrity of all fireblocks shall be maintained."

The Board finds there is no practical way to inspect installed foam fire blocking, to ensure that all concealed openings are effectively sealed, and that no voids or concealed air passageways exist. The Board also finds that as the dimensional lumber contracts and expands, there is no practical way to ensure the continued maintenance and integrity of the foam seal against the dimensional lumber, over time.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Robert LeClair  
Executive Director

Cc: file  
Chris Mann, Assistant Attorney General

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JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

ANNE L. HEAD  
DIRECTOR  
ROBERT LECLAIR  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

October 21, 2010

RE: Spray foam used as fire blocking in marriage walls.

Dear Board Approved Third Party Inspection Agencies,

On October 14, 2010 I sent a letter explaining that the Maine Manufactured Housing Board found that the use of single component polyurethane foam sealant for fireblocking at marriage walls on modular homes was not acceptable.

It appears that we should have been more clear with our explanation. We had no intention of singling out Dow Chemical's "Great Stuff". The intent of our letter is for any single component polyurethane foam sealant. We also want to be clear that the only issue of concern with the single component polyurethane foam sealant is at the marriage wall in the basement. Single component polyurethane foam sealant can be used for fireblocking in all other areas that require its use.

I hope that this has helped to clarify our position on this product.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Robert LeClair*

Robert LeClair  
Executive Director

c: Chris Mann, Assistant Attorney General  
file

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