



Where innovative ideas take hold.

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

FIRE RESISTANCE AND TESTING

FIRE BARRIERS AND FIRE RESISTANCE

Most Compac products are flame retardant due to stringent code requirements in the industrial and commercial segments we serve. Even though they may contain paper and plastic film, most are only partially combustible and self-extinguishing.

Generally speaking, Compac products do not provide protection from fire nor impart fire resistance to other materials in a structure or system. They are fire retardant in and of themselves, and this may enable a system that is otherwise fire resistant to meet certain requirements. They are not intended to provide fire barrier protection for other materials in a building structure.

Fire tests results are intended to provide information on relative performance of materials or systems under controlled conditions. The results should not be relied upon to indicate the ability of a material to reduce hazard risk under actual fire conditions.

STANDARD TEST:

Codes for commercial construction and industrial applications typically contain fire resistance requirements. There are many tests for fire resistance, for materials and structures. The standard test for our products in the industry we serve is ASTM E 84, *Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials*. Methods such as UL 723 and NFPA 255 are equivalent tests.

In basic terms, this test (also known as the “tunnel test”) determines the surface spread of flame and the smoke generated in burning, in a horizontal orientation. Results are comparative with a standard of red oak. The lower the numerical result, the better the fire resistance indicated. Many commercial codes require 25 flame spread/50 smoke generated maximums.

Most Compac vapor retarders and insulation tapes are flame retardant, due to the code requirements. In many cases, insulation products made with our products attached are tested in “composites”, which consist of vapor retarder-adhesive-insulation. In the metal building insulation market, we have our own composite classifications. In the commercial/industrial market, our customers typically conduct testing and obtain their own composite classifications.

The majority of our products have their own surface burning characteristics (SBC) classification, as tested with no other components attached, for those applications where this is desired and acceptable.

OTHER TESTS:

If you have specific testing requirements, we can provide samples and technical assistance to help you test our product.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

For further information and to discuss specific questions, please contact our Technical Service Manager at 1-877-5COMPAC (1-877-526-6722).

Cp10-25-05

