

Press Information

Formation of an interest group for technical insulation materials made of foam plastics (CEFEP)

Reliable guidance for users; mouthpiece of the industry

Münster, 7 February 2012. – Leading European manufacturers of technical insulation materials made of foam plastics have now joined forces to form the European FEF and PEF Interest Group (CEFEP). The manufacturers had already approved quality requirements for elastomeric and polyethylene insulation materials and introduced the RAL quality mark FEF/PEF last year. The interest group represents the industry on important European and national committees and would like to provide users with reliable guidance when selecting and installing products.

In mid January, nine leading producers of insulation materials made of foam plastics, Aeroflex, Armacell, Firo, Kaimann, L'Isolante K-flex, NMC, Steinbacher, Thermaflex and Union Foam, set up the European FEF and PEF Interest Group (CEFEP) under the umbrella of the European quality assurance association for rigid foam (GSH, *Güteschutzgemeinschaft Hartschaum*). The group represents the vast majority of European manufacturers of elastomeric and polyethylene products for technical insulation. Georg Eleftheriadis, Manager Technical Marketing Europe of Armacell GmbH, was elected as the chairman. For the time being, he will also act as the convenor of CEN/TC 88, WG10 TG FEF and PEF.

Introduction of the RAL quality mark

In order to provide users with reliable guidance when specifying, selling and installing their products, the manufacturers approved common quality requirements for FEF and PEF insulation materials at the beginning of 2011. The RAL FEF/PEF Quality Mark, which was introduced by the GSH last March, is the visible expression of compliance with the quality and monitoring system. The awarding of the RAL mark is tied to strict monitoring according to the quality and test regulations. With this voluntary agreement to monitor its products continuously and independently according to the statutes of the RAL, the interest group is underlining its commitment to assure the quality of its products. It is creating standards which exceed the minimum requirements of the European norms and preventing increased complexity by largely avoiding voluntary national approvals and test certificates. This creates greater

transparency and reliability for all involved in this line of business. Of course, each of the members of the interest group maintains a distinct portfolio of products and its own marketing strategies. A direct comparison between the insulation materials on offer is also to be made easier. Taking into account the provisions of the CE mark rules, the CEFEP is striving to achieve a standardized depiction of the product designation codes. These codes give information about the essential product properties, such as fire behaviour and the resistance to water vapour transmission.

European mouthpiece of the industry

Above and beyond this, CEFEP also represents the mutual interests of the industry on European and national committees. For example, a revision of the European standards for 'Thermal insulation for building equipment and industrial installations' is currently on the agenda. The interest group will advocate the reflection of accepted environmental standards in the norms and a revision of the nomenclature - in particular the meaning of the technical properties of individual product groups. CEFEP will also increasingly establish contacts to external experts, who are invited to make their contribution to the topics.

European FEF and PEF Interest Group (CEFEP)

In January 2012, leading manufacturers of technical insulation materials made of foam plastics joined forces to set up the European FEF and PEF Interest Group (CEFEP). The founding members are Aeroflex, Armacell, Firo, Kaimann, L'Isolante K-flex, NMC, Steinbacher, Thermaflex and Union Foam. The members commit themselves to assuring the quality of their products according to the statutes of the RAL. CEFEP represents the mutual interests of the industry on European and national committees.

Caption: Founding meeting in Düsseldorf (Germany) (from left to right): The CEFEP members Roland Hebbel (Steinbacher), Jan Niermanns (Thermaflex), Andrea Marengi (L'Isolante K-flex), Vittoria Orienti (Union Foam), Ferdinand Braun (NMC), Roland Baumann (Aeroflex), Ralf Springub (Kaimann), Malte Witt (Armacell), Wolfgang Andrae (Kaimann), Georg Eleftheriadis (Armacell), Klaus Zipp (Güteschutzgemeinschaft Hartschaum) and Otto Ganschow (Firo)

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