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*Charles Waggoner
Product Engineer
Demilec*

Innovative insulation from Demilec is energy-efficient, environmentally friendly

For centuries, castor oil has been thought to have healing powers. Today, it has insulating powers. The rapidly renewable resource is taking the place of petroleum-based products in spray foam insulation, making the insulation more environmentally friendly. Leading the way is Demilec, a manufacturer of residential and commercial spray foam insulation. One of Demilec’s newest products, SEALECTION Agribalance, contains 10 percent bio-based content, as verified by ICC Evaluation Service® (ICC-ES®) through its Sustainable Attributes Verification and Evaluation™ (SAVE™) Program. By replacing petroleum-based products with castor oil, SEALECTION Agribalance is utilizing a natural, rapidly renewable, non-food resource. Demilec’s semi rigid, open-cell, low-density foam also is water-blown, making it free of CFCs and HCFCs.

“The SAVE™ Verification of Attributes Report™ (VAR-1006) is important to us because we can verify through third-party testing that we do have a green product,” explains Demilec Product Engineer Charles Waggoner. “Everyone in the world is coming out saying their products are green, but without verification such claims don’t matter very much.”

Which is exactly why ICC-ES® developed the SAVE™ Program—to verify manufacturers’ claims about the sustainable attributes of their building products and to show how those products may qualify for points under major green building standards. These standards include the National Association of Home Builders and International Code Council’s 2008 National Green Building Standard (ICC-700); *LEED 2009 for New Construction and Major Renovation*, published by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC); USGBC’s *LEED for Homes*; the 2008 *California Green Building Standards Code* (Title 24, Part 11); and the Green Building Initiative’s Green Globes.

Waggoner says he’s seeing a movement toward a home’s quality being defined in part by its energy efficiency. “I like to say ‘seal tight and ventilate right,’” says Waggoner. “Not only is Agribalance an excellent thermal and sound insulator, but it makes for a healthier home by sealing out allergens like dust and pollen.”

SELECTION Agribalance also creates more energy-efficient homes by expanding to seal cracks, gaps and voids in attics, walls and ceilings. Well-insulated homes can use smaller, more energy-efficient heating and cooling units to achieve the same level of comfort. The Demilec spray foam also complies with the 2006 *International Building Code*, the 2006 *International Residential Code* and the 2006 *International Energy Conservation Code*, as noted in ICC-ES® Evaluation Report® ESR-2600.

“Obviously the issue of green is on everyone’s mind,” notes Waggoner. “The fact that we can provide an ICC-ES® VAR™ in our bid package is very beneficial to us, because not a lot of companies can do that.”

The ICC-ES® SAVE™ Program addresses a product’s entire production process, beginning with raw material acquisition and progressing through the final manufacturing and packaging. The SAVE™ evaluation includes both inspection of the manufacturer’s production process, and product testing at recognized laboratories, where required by the ICC-ES® evaluation guideline.

SELECTION Agribalance was evaluated to EG102, the ICC-ES® Evaluation Guideline for Determination of Bio-based Material Content. The SAVE™ verification guidelines include eight additional categories related to sustainability.

To find out more about SELECTION Agribalance, view VAR-1006, issued September 1, 2009, at

<http://saveprogram.icc-es.org/reports/pdf/VAR-1006.pdf>

and evaluation report ESR-2600 at

http://www.icc-es.org/reports/pdf_files/ICC-ES/ESR-2600.pdf

All SAVE™ VAR™s can be accessed and downloaded free of charge at www.icc-es.org/save.



A nonprofit organization, ICC-ES® is the United States’ leading evaluation service for innovative construction materials and systems. ICC-ES® developed the SAVE™ Program in conjunction with International Code Council activities that are aimed at developing and fostering sustainable design and construction.

** This article is intended to provide information on a product for which an ICC-ES® SAVE™ VAR™ has recently been issued. It should not be construed as a product endorsement or a recommendation for its use.*