

Product Information Bulletin

DuroSpan® GPS Insulation Used as Insulating Sheathing - 2012 OBC

Page 1 of 5

DuroSpan® GPS insulation is a rigid, closed-cell expanded polystyrene (EPS) insulation with a silver-gray colour that meets or exceeds requirements as per CAN/ULC-S701.1, Type 1. **DuroSpan GPS** insulation has laminated films on the top and bottom surfaces which result in a more durable product that is less susceptible to handling damage.

DuroSpan GPS insulation is manufactured using **Neopor® F5300 GPS Plus**, a graphite-enhanced expandable polystyrene (GPS) provided by BASF. The graphite within the cellular structure of **DuroSpan GPS** insulation reduces radiation heat transfer resulting in enhanced thermal resistance compared to standard white EPS insulation.

Table 1 – **DuroSpan GPS** Insulation – CAN/ULC-S701.1 Material Properties¹

Material Property ²	Test Method	Units	Type 1
Thermal Resistance <i>Minimum RSI per 25 mm (R per inch)</i>	ASTM C518	m ² •°C/W (ft ² •hr•°F/BTU)	0.82 (4.7)
Compressive Resistance <i>Minimum @ 10% Deformation</i>	ASTM D1621	kPa (psi)	70 (10)
Flexural Strength <i>Minimum</i>	ASTM C203	kPa (psi)	170 (25)
Water Vapour Permeance³ <i>Maximum</i>	ASTM E96	ng/Pa•s•m ² (Perm)	30 (0.5)
Water Absorption⁴ <i>Maximum</i>	ASTM D2842	% By volume	6.0
Dimensional Stability <i>Maximum, 7 Days @ 70 ± 2°C (158 ± 4°F)</i>	ASTM D2126	% Linear Change	1.5
Limiting Oxygen Index <i>Minimum</i>	ASTM D2863	%	24
Standard Products			
Width, mm (in)	Length, mm (ft)	RSI - m ² •°C/W	R-value - ft ² •hr•°F/BTU
1,222 (4)	2,444, 2743 or 3,658 (8, 9 or 10)	0.88, 1.32, 1.76	5.0, 7.5 or 10.0

1. CAN/ULC-S701.1:2017, **Standard for Thermal Insulation, Polystyrene, Boards.**

2. **DuroSpan GPS** insulation properties are third party certified to CAN/ULC-S701.1 under a quality listing program administered by Intertek Testing Services. See Intertek code compliance research report CCRR-1033 for additional information regarding **DuroSpan GPS** insulation code compliance.

3. **Maximum** vapour permeance value for EPS insulation is 300 ng/Pa•s•m² for 25-mm (5.2 perms for 1-inch) thickness. The vapour permeance value provided above for **DuroSpan GPS** insulation is significantly lower as a result of laminated films. Where water vapour permeance is a design issue, contact Plasti-Fab technical services for additional information.

4. Water absorption % by volume is determined using ASTM D2842 which involves complete submersion under a head of water for 96 hours. The value provided in the table above is the **maximum** for CAN/ULC-S701.1, type 1 EPS insulation without facers.

This bulletin addresses the use of **DuroSpan GPS** continuous insulation as exterior insulating sheathing applied to above grade walls in compliance with the 2012 Ontario Building Code (2012 OBC).

1. Thermal Resistance of Wall Assemblies with DuroSpan GPS Insulation

2012 OBC, MMA Supplementary Standard SB-12, Chapter 3 provides prescriptive compliance packages which include requirements for the minimum thermal performance and energy efficiency of building envelope and space heating equipment, domestic hot water heating equipment and heat recovery ventilator equipment. Compliance packages are presented in table format in SB-12, Chapter 3 as follows:

- a) Zone 1 Building Locations – Tables 3.1.1.2.A (SI), 3.1.1.2.A (IP), 3.1.1.2.B (SI), and 3.1.1.2.B (IP).
- b) Zone 2 Building Locations – Tables 3.1.1.3.A (SI), 3.1.1.3.A (IP), 3.1.1.3.B (SI), and 3.1.1.3.B (IP).

The approximate limits of Climate Zones 1 and 2 are illustrated in Figure 1.



Figure 1 – Ontario Climate Zone Map

Table 2 provides recommended **DuroSpan GPS** continuous insulation options to meet MMA SB-12 requirements.

Table 2 – DuroSpan GPS Continuous Insulation for Above Grade Walls

MMA SB-12 Reference	Compliance Package	Minimum Cavity RSI (R) (Note 1)	DuroSpan GPS Continuous Insulation		
			RSI (R)	Thickness	
				mm	in.
Zone 1 – Table 3.1.1.2.A Space Heating Equipment AFUE ≥ 92%	A2, A5	3.34 (19)	0.88 (5.0)	27	1 1/16
	A3	2.46 (14)	1.32 (7.6)	41	1 5/8
	A4, A6	3.87 (22)	0.88 (5.0)	27	1 1/16
Zone 1 – Table 3.1.1.2.B Space Heating Equipment 84% ≤ AFUE < 92%	B1, B2	3.87 (22)	0.88 (5.0)	27	1 1/16
	B3, B4	3.87 (22)	1.32 (7.6)	41	1 5/8
	B5, B6	3.34 (19)	1.76 (10.0)	54	2 1/8
Zone 2 – Table 3.1.1.3.A Space Heating Equipment AFUE ≥ 92%	A1 (Note 2)	3.34 (19)	1.32 (7.6)	41	1 5/8
	A2, A5	3.34 (19)	1.76 (10)	54	2 1/8
	A3 (Note 2)	3.87 (22)	1.32 (7.6)	41	1 5/8
	A4, A6	3.87 (22)	1.32 (7.6)	41	1 5/8
Zone 2 – Table 3.1.1.3.B Space Heating Equipment 84% ≤ AFUE < 92%	B1, B2	3.87 (22)	1.32 (7.6)	41	1 5/8
	B3, B4, B5, B6	3.87 (22)	1.76 (10)	54	2 1/8

Notes:

1. The *minimum RSI/R values* for cavity insulation in Table 2 are as per MMA SB-12 compliance packages. *Minimum RSI/R values* for continuous insulation meet or exceed requirements as per MMA SB-12, Chapter 3, Tables 3.1.1.2.A (SI) and 3.1.1.2.A (IP) for all compliance packages.
2. For Zone 2 compliance packages A1 and A3, **DuroSpan GPS** insulation with RSI-1.35 (R-7.6) is recommended (versus minimum RSI-0.88 (R-5.0) per MMA SB-12) in order to address minimum ratio of total RSI/R-value outboard to RSI/R-value inboard required for low air and vapour permeance materials.

3. Air Barrier System Requirements

Article 9.25.3.1. requires wall, ceiling and floor assemblies separating conditioned space from unconditioned space or from the ground to be constructed so as to include an air barrier system that will provide a continuous barrier to air leakage. **DuroSpan GPS** insulation may be used as one component in an air barrier system; however, air barrier system design must consider requirements for sealing of all penetrations of the air barrier system, such as those created by the installation of doors, windows, electrical wiring, electrical boxes, piping or ductwork

4. Insulating Sheathing in lieu of Sheathing Membrane

Subclause 9.27.3.4.(2)(b)(i) states that a separate sheathing membrane is not required over insulating sheathing where the joints between boards are sealed. Therefore, when the joints between **DuroSpan GPS** insulation boards are sealed, a separate sheathing membrane is not required. Refer to PIB 206 for additional information on installation requirements.

5. Vapour Barrier System Requirements

Article 9.25.4.1. requires all thermally insulated wall, ceiling and floor assemblies to be constructed have a vapour barrier with a vapour permeance less than 60 ng/(Pa•s•m²) as per Sentence 9.25.4.2.(1) to prevent condensation. **DuroSpan GPS** insulating sheathing is not intended to provide the principal protection against vapour diffusion in an above grade wall application.

6. Position and Properties of DuroSpan GPS Continuous Insulating Sheathing

Subsection 9.25.5.1. addresses low air and vapour permeance materials and implications for moisture accumulation. Because **DuroSpan GPS** insulating sheathing has an air leakage characteristic less than 0.1 L/(s•m²) at 75 Pa and a vapour permeance characteristic less than 60 ng/(Pa•s•m²), the provisions of Article 9.25.5 must be considered.

Clause 9.25.5.2.(2)(b) permits the use of **DuroSpan GPS** continuous insulating sheathing on the exterior of an insulated frame wall based upon the **ratio of outboard to inboard thermal resistance** for specific heating degree-day (HDD) ranges. Wall assemblies with ratio of outboard to inboard thermal resistance values greater than those given in 2012 OBC, Table 9.25.5.2 (see Table 3 below) ensure that the inner surface of the insulating sheathing is likely to be warm enough for most of the heating season such that no significant accumulation of moisture will occur.

In this type of wall assembly, it is assumed the vapour barrier function will be provided by a separate building element installed on the warm side of the assembly. **NOTE:** For additional information on assumptions used in developing Table 9.25.5.2., refer to Plasti-Fab PIB 367 and 2012 OBC, Volume 2, Appendix Note A-9.25.5.2.

Table 3 - Ratio of Outboard to Inboard Thermal Resistance

Heating Degree Days of Building Location ⁽¹⁾ , Celsius Degree-Days	Minimum Ratio, Total Thermal Resistance Outboard of Material's Inner Surface to Total Thermal Resistance Inboard of Material's Inner Surface
Notes to 2012 OBC, Table 9.25.5.2.:	
(1) See MMAH Supplementary Standard SB-1, "Climatic and Seismic Data".	
up to 4999	0.20
5000 to 5999	0.30
6000 to 6999	0.35
7000 to 7999	0.40

Table 3 Note: Energy consumption required to keep the interior of a small building at 21°C when the outside air temperature is below 18°C is roughly proportional to the difference between 18°C and the outside temperature. This relationship holds true for average conditions of wind, radiation, exposure, and internal sources. A heating degree-day (HDD) is defined as the number of degrees the mean temperature (average of high and low temperature) for a given day is below 18°C. The sum of all the daily HDD contributions results in the annual HDD for a location.

Table 4 provides minimum ratio of total outboard to inboard thermal resistance for a number of building locations in Ontario based upon Climatic Data provided in 2012 OBC, MMAH Supplementary Standard SB-1.

Table 4 – Minimum Ratio of Outboard to Inboard Thermal Resistance for Building Locations

OBC Zone 1 (< 5000 Celsius Degree-Days)			OBC Zone 2 (≥5000 Celsius Degree-Days)		
Building Location	HDD	Minimum Ratio of Outboard to Inboard Thermal Resistance	Building Location	HDD	Minimum Ratio of Outboard to Inboard Thermal Resistance
Barrie	4,380	0.20	Big Trout Lake	7,450	0.40
Belleville	3,910	0.20	Cochrane	6,200	0.35
Brampton	4,100	0.20	Dryden	5,150	0.30
Burlington	3,740	0.20	North Bay	5,300	0.30
Kitchener	4,200	0.20	Moosonee	6,800	0.35
Ottawa	4,400	0.20	Sudbury	5,180	0.30
Peterborough	4,400	0.20	Thunder Bay	5,650	0.30
Sault Ste. Marie	4,960	0.20	Timmins	6,000	0.35
Toronto	3,800	0.20	White River	6,150	0.35

Tables 5 and 6 provide examples of ratio of outboard to inboard thermal resistance calculations for above-grade wall assemblies using **DuroSpan GPS** continuous insulating sheathing in combination with cavity insulation to meet or exceed minimum RSI_{eff}/R_{eff} per 2012 OBC, SB-12.

Table 5 – Zone 1 Above-Grade Wall Ratio of Outboard to Inboard RSI Calculations

SB-12 Compliance Packages	Zone 1 - HDD < 5,000				
	A2, A5	A3	A4, A6 B1, B2	B3, B4	B5, B6
Outboard Components	RSI	RSI	RSI	RSI	RSI
Outside Air Film	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Cladding	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11
DuroSpan GPS Continuous Insulation	0.88	1.35	0.88	1.35	1.76
Total Outboard RSI	1.02	1.49	1.02	1.49	1.90
Inboard Components	RSI	RSI	RSI	RSI	RSI
Stud cavity insulation	3.34	2.46	3.87	3.87	3.34
Gypsum board	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08
Inside air film	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12
Total Inboard RSI	3.54	2.66	4.07	4.07	3.54
Ratio of Outboard RSI to Inboard RSI	0.29	0.56	0.25	0.36	0.54
Applicable HDD Range for Building Locations	up to 4,999	up to 9,999	up to 4,999	up to 6,999	up to 8,999

Calculations in Table 5 above confirm that the ratio of outboard to inboard RSI would exceed minimum requirements per Table 4 for all locations using the recommended RSI/R for DuroSpan GPS continuous insulation from Table 2 as a component in 2012 OBC Zone 1 compliance packages from SB-12, Chapter 3.

Table 6 — Zone 2 Above-Grade Wall Ratio of Outboard to Inboard RSI Calculations

SB-12 Compliance Packages	Zone 2 - HDD ≥ 5,000					
	A1	A2, A5	A3	A4, A6 B1, B2	B3, B4	B5, B6
Outboard Components	RSI	RSI	RSI	RSI	RSI	RSI
Outside Air Film	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Cladding	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11
DuroSpan GPS Continuous Insulation	1.35	1.76	1.35	1.35	1.76	1.76
Total Outboard RSI	1.49	1.90	1.49	1.49	1.90	1.90
Inboard Components	RSI	RSI	RSI	RSI	RSI	RSI
Stud cavity insulation	3.34	3.34	3.87	3.87	3.87	3.87
Gypsum board	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08
Inside air film	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12
Total Inboard RSI	3.54	3.54	4.07	4.07	4.07	4.07
Ratio of Outboard to Inboard RSI	0.42	0.54	0.36	0.36	0.47	0.47
Applicable HDD Range for Building Locations	up to 7,999	up to 8,999	up to 6,999	up to 6,999	up to 7,999	up to 7,999

Calculations in Table 6 above confirm that the ratio of outboard to inboard RSI would exceed minimum requirements per Table 4 for all locations using the recommended RSI/R for **DuroSpan GPS** continuous insulation from Table 2 as a component in 2012 OBC Zone 2 compliance packages from SB-12, Chapter 3.