



Product Information Bulletin

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Special Changes to the National Building Code of Canada 1995

In October 1998, the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC) issued a **SPECIAL CHANGE** to the 1995 National Building Code (NBC) of Canada eliminating Sentence 9.25.2.2.(4), which stated:

Type 1 expanded polystyrene insulation as described in CAN/CGSB-51.20-M, "Thermal Insulation, Polystyrene, Boards and Pipe Covering" shall not be used in contact with the ground or as roof insulation applied above the roofing membrane.

This change means that PlastiSpan insulation meeting CAN/ULC-S701, Type 1 (formerly CAN/CGSB-51.20-M87, type 1) can be used in contact with the ground in any building application.

The CCBFC decision acknowledged that the performance of Type 1 expanded polystyrene (EPS) insulation in below-grade applications has been proven. Their decision was based upon the following criteria:

- **LONG-TERM PERFORMANCE** – Type 1 EPS insulation material now has a long-term record of performance as a below-grade insulation material. Plasti-Fab also participated in a recently completed Expanded Polystyrene Association of Canada (EPAC)/National Research Council (NRC) joint research project which confirmed the performance of EPS insulation in this application.
- **VIABLE COST-EFFECTIVE INSULATION** – For Builders/Owners subject to the provisions of Part 9 of the Code, Type 1 EPS insulation is a cost-effective insulation material. Designers are provided with the flexibility of an additional source of insulation material proven to perform successfully in below-grade applications.
- **UNIFORM APPLICATION OF BUILDING CODE** – Sentence 9.25.2.2.(4) was only applicable to Type 1 EPS insulation used in buildings built for NBC Part 9 (residential) applications. Type 1 EPS insulation is already being used successfully for buildings subject to other NBC Parts including applications such as insulation beneath structural slabs and on the exterior of foundation for warehouses and office buildings.
- **ELIMINATES UNNECESSARY CONFUSION** – The removal of this Sentence in the Code eliminates unnecessary confusion for designers regarding product application since all types of EPS insulation meeting CAN/ULC-S701 are now permitted in any building.

This change to the Code means that Builders/Owners now have the option of using either *PlastiSpan* Type 1 insulation for all types of residential, commercial and industrial construction.