

SOUTHWEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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CHEMISTRY AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERING DIVISION
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INVESTIGATION OF THE SURFACE BURNING
CHARACTERISTICS OF 4 MM ALPOLIC PANELS
WITH AN ALUMINUM SKIN
MATERIAL ID: ALPOLIC COMPOSITE PANELS
(TEST ONE)

SwRI PROJECT NO.: 01-8361-320d

FINAL REPORT

TEST DATE: 10-SEP-1997

REPORT DATE: 18-SEP-1997

Prepared for:

MITSUBISHI CHEMICAL AMERICA, INC.
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By:



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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an ASTM E84 test on a specimen submitted by the Client. The test is conducted in accordance with the procedure outlined in ASTM E84-97, "Standard Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials" (NFPA 255, ANSI/UL 723 and UBC 8-1).

This test method for the comparative surface burning behavior of building materials is applicable to exposed surfaces, such as ceilings or walls, provided that the material or assembly of materials, by its own structural quality or the manner in which it is tested and intended for use, is capable of supporting itself in position or being supported during the test period. These tests are conducted with the material in the ceiling position.

The purpose of this test method is to determine the relative burning behavior of the material by observing the flame spread along the specimen. Flame Spread and Smoke Developed index are reported. However, there is not necessarily a relationship between these two measurements.

For each test, a specimen measuring at least 21 in. wide x 24 ft long is required. The specimen may consist of a continuous, unbroken length, or of sections joined end-to-end. When requested by the Client, specimens are prepared at SwRI following the Client's instructions. Unless otherwise indicated by the Client, test specimens are conditioned as appropriate in an atmosphere maintained between 68 and 78°F and 45 to 55% relative humidity.

Immediately prior to the test, the specimen is mounted in the furnace with the side to be tested facing the test flame. Sometimes, because of the nature of the material undergoing testing, additional support (e.g. wire, wire and rods, rods, and/or bars) is used to ensure that the specimen will remain in position during the test. The use of supporting materials on the underside of the test specimen may lower the Flame Spread Index from that which might be obtained if the specimen could be tested without such support, and the test results do not necessarily relate to indices obtained by testing materials without such support.

The flame front position and light obscuration are recorded throughout the 10-minute test and used to calculate the Flame Spread and Smoke Developed indices. The temperature at 24 ft is also recorded.

The Flame Spread and Smoke Developed indices reported herein are relative to the results obtained for mineral fiber-reinforced cement board and select grade red oak (moisture content between 6 and 8%). The mineral fiber-reinforced cement board is the calibration material used to obtain 0 values for Flame Spread and Smoke; red oak decks are used to obtain 100 values for Flame Spread and Smoke.

The results apply specifically to the specimens tested, in the manner tested, and not to the entire production of these or similar materials, nor to the performance when used in combination with other materials.

ASTM E 84-97 REPORT

CLIENT: MITSUBISHI CHEMICAL AMERICA, INC.

SWRI PROJECT NO: 01-8361-320d

DAILY TEST NO: 4

DESCRIPTION OF SPECIMEN

DATE RECEIVED: 18-Aug-1997 (received ready-to-test)

MATERIAL ID:* Alpolic composite panels

DESCRIPTION: 4 mm Alpolic panels with an aluminum skin

THICKNESS: 0.168 in. (nominal)

COLOR: Gray

SPECIMEN SIZE: Three panels 24.0 in. wide x 96.0 in. long

CONDITIONING TIME: 22 days at 70°F and 50% relative humidity

SUPPORT USED: None

WITNESSED BY: Mrs. Sarah Houston of Southwest Research Institute's, Listing and Labeling Services

* From Client's material description

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TEST RESULTS (ROUNDED TO NEAREST 5)

FLAME SPREAD INDEX (FSI): 0
SMOKE DEVELOPED INDEX (SDI): 0

TEST DATA

UNROUNDED FSI: 0.0
UNROUNDED SDI: 0.9
FS*TIME AREA (Ft*Min): 0.0
SMOKE AREA (%*Min): 0.6
FUEL AREA (°F*Min): 5243.1

OBSERVATIONS DURING TEST

IGNITION TIME (Min:Sec): None
MAXIMUM FLAME FRONT ADVANCE (Ft): 0.0
TIME TO MAXIMUM ADVANCE (Min:Sec): 0:30
MAXIMUM TEMP. AT EXPOSED TC (°F): 575
TIME TO MAXIMUM TEMP. (Min:Sec): 10:0
TOTAL FUEL BURNED (Cu. Ft.): 52.5
DRIPPING (Min:Sec): None
FLAMING ON FLOOR (Min:Sec): None
AFTERFLAME TOP (Min:Sec): None
AFTERFLAME FLOOR (Min:Sec): None

CALIBRATION DATA (LAST RED OAK)

RED OAK SMOKE AREA (%*Min): 47.0
RED OAK FUEL AREA (°F*Min): 8737.6
GRC BOARD FUEL AREA (°F*Min): 4937.8

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