Standard Classification of Potential Health and Safety Concerns Associated With Thermal Insulation Materials and Accessories

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C 930; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This classification identifies potential concerns and effects that could result from direct contact with thermal insulation materials and accessories, or be caused by indirect action of events such as aging, fire, or physical disturbance.

1.2 Intent of Classification:

1.2.1 It is the intent of this classification to alert others to potential concerns, effects, hazards, or risk.

1.2.2 It is not the intent of this classification to establish the degree of risk or hazard or limiting values of potential hazards.

1.2.3 It is not the intent of this classification to establish or recommend methods or markings to reduce or mitigate the potential; however, it is recognized that correct procedures and precautionary measures can substantially reduce or eliminate some of the potential concerns, effects, hazards, or risks.

NOTE: 1—See Appendix X1 for commentary.

1.3 This classification recognizes the responsibility of producers and users, as appropriate, to: (1) provide information on known effects or hazards, (2) advise on established safety and health practices, and (3) determine applicable regulatory requirements.

1.4 This classification does not address the health and safety concerns of thermal insulation materials and accessories during manufacture.

1.5 Omission of an item from this classification does not imply an absence of potential concerns or effects.

1.6 There is no importance in the order of listing.

2. Terminology

2.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

2.1.1 degree of risk—the probability or expected frequency of the event, multiplied by the expected magnitude of exposure and the potential for harm.

2.1.2 direct contact—the straightforward touching resulting from use, manipulation, placement, etc.

2.1.3 hazard—a condition or set of circumstances that presents a specific injury or adverse health potential.

2.1.4 indirect action or events—the actions or events that

3. Significance and Use

3.1 The purpose of this classification is to identify potential concerns and effects which may occur during the life cycle (installation, service, removal, and disposal) of insulation materials and accessories resulting from direct contact or indirect action or events.

3.2 This classification does not identify remedial or preventative steps that may be taken to correct potential problems or hazards; rather it is intended as a checklist that will make it easier to deal constructively with these potentials, and to determine what, if any, specific requirements need to be added to other standards concerning insulation materials or accessories. (See Appendix X2 for sources of information.)

3.3 This classification recognizes that proper handling and installation procedures can substantially reduce the potential concerns and effects. Further, it recognizes that in some situations the presence or creation of potential effects or hazards results from an intervening act of human or natural origin, or depends on access to or contact with the materials or accessories. Lack of compatibility of the individual components of an insulation system with each other or the environmental conditions within which the system will operate, or both, may create unanticipated effects. (See Appendix X3.)

4. Basis of Classification

4.1 Classification is based on several broad groupings of potential that could result from direct contact with thermal insulation materials and accessories, or be caused by indirect actions or events.

4.2 Potentials that occur from direct contact or indirect action or events are described as follows:

4.2.1 Potential Health Effects—Those effects that create risk of temporary or permanent changes in normal body functions and biochemical activity. The latter may involve vapors (such as organic solvent fumes), corrosive liquids (acids, alkalies, and organics), and solids (usually high surface
area particulates) that react with body tissues or fluids.

4.2.1 A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), U.S. Department of Labor (29CFR 1910.1200) for hazardous chemicals produced in the United States, or imported. (The MSDS for any product or material is issued and available from the organization producing the product or material.)

4.2.2 The MSDS for any insulation product, system, or accessory (including adhesives) should be obtained and reviewed to determine any potential effect on humans using or installing the material.

4.2.3 When tests are included in a standard, the MSDS for chemicals required should be reviewed to ensure that proper guidance for safe handling and use is incorporated.

4.2.4 Potential Traumatic Injury Effects (Table 1)—These effects may result from sharp or rough materials or accessories which have protrusions or abrasive surfaces, cause overheating, or transmit electrical energy, and generally require direct contact with the material or accessory causing lacerations, abrasions, punctures, etc.

4.2.5 Potential Effects Resulting from Combustion (Table 2)—Those effects that result principally from the emission of heat, gases (toxic and non-toxic), fibers, particulates, and depletion of oxygen which takes place during combustion that exposes or involves insulation materials or accessories.

4.2.6 Potential Effects from Structural Conditions (Table 3)—Those effects that result principally from the overloading or deterioration of structural members of a building resulting in failure of the structure, or a portion of it, and its collapse on occupants.

5. Keywords

5.1 hazards; health effects; injury; safety

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1 Potential Traumatic Injury</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Insulation Product, System, or Accessory</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cellular glass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encapsulated or reflective insulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insulation materials and accessories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man-made vitreous fibers:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral wool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refractory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal encapsulated or reflective insulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal foil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheet metal lagging, bands, fasteners, sheet metal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Also see Table 3.*
X1.1 **Background of Standard**—The original concept was to develop two standards that alert task groups writing standards to safety and health concerns associated with thermal insulation materials and accessories during installation and after installation. Classification C 930 – 80 resulted from a number of drafts and concerned the effects during installation. Subsequently attention was given to the effects after installation and a proposed classification standard proceeded through a number of drafts, with several new approaches to the classification and information presented. Finally it was agreed there was sufficient similarity between the existing standard (Classification C 930 – 80) and the proposed, so that they should be combined into one standard (Oct. 1982 Subcommittee meeting).

X1.1.2 This revision combines the concerns and effects associated with thermal insulation materials and accessories during installation, and (after) when remodeling, or retrofitting, or as a result of indirect action or events.

X1.1.3 This is a resource document intended solely to alert standards writers and users of insulating materials and accessories to **potentials**. It is most emphatically not an evaluation of comparative risks, nor is it a predictor of inevitable problems. No effort has been made to address the numerous preventive or remedial measures available to manufacturers and users, even though it is recognized that many of these are routinely used. The user in a corporate sense has a responsibility to advise the installer (tradesman), as an employee, of the information supplied by the manufacturer.

X1.1.4 During deliberations on the revision of C930 – 80, many requests to add qualifying or explanatory phrases and footnotes that indicate increased or decreased potential risk with specific products were received. It became clear that this qualifying or explanatory information would move the classification into territory beyond its own scope by noting palliative measures and assigning degrees of risk to some products and not others. Consequently it was agreed that the tables should not contain comparative risk information.

X1.1.5 The tables are non-qualitative, non-quantitative lists of potential hazards to be used by standards writers, manufacturers, and users who are responsible for taking the potentials into account. Thus they are no more, no less, than checklists.

X1.1.6 Since adoption of Classification C 930 – 85, an OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor) Regulation on Hazard Communication 29CFR 1910.1200 has been implemented. The use and availability of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) has become widespread. MSDSs are more comprehensive and up-to-date than Table 1 in Classification C 930 – 85. Therefore, Table 1

### TABLE 2 Potential Effects Resulting from Combustion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insulation Product, System, or Accessory</th>
<th>Potential Exposure</th>
<th>Potential Effect on Humans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adhesives, coatings, and mastics containing solvents</td>
<td>combustion of flammable or combustible solvents, during application or from residual solvents</td>
<td>Thermal burns and other effects from flame, flashover or explosion. Impaired vision from smoke. Toxic effects&lt;sup&gt;A&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic polymeric foams</td>
<td>combustion of organic materials</td>
<td>Thermal burns. Impaired vision from smoke. Toxic effects&lt;sup&gt;A&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic fibers: Animal hair Cellulosic Vegetable PVC jacketing Urea formaldehyde foam Vapor retarders-including asphalt-coated Insulations (principally fibrous) organically bound or impregnated</td>
<td>combustion of organic materials</td>
<td>Thermal burns. Impaired vision from smoke. Toxic effects&lt;sup&gt;A&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>A</sup>Toxicity of smoke and fumes depends on materials burning and intensity.

### TABLE 3 Potential Effects Resulting from Structural Conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insulation Product, System, or Accessory</th>
<th>Potential Exposure</th>
<th>Potential Effect on Humans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Insulation materials and accessories</td>
<td>contact with metal structural components may result in oxidation of the metal additional weight load to structure plus snow or ice</td>
<td>Long term structural weakening or failure and collapse on occupants. Structural failure and collapse on occupants if design characteristics are not reevaluated prior to installation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
has been deleted. Standards writers and users should refer to MSDSs and applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations for potential health effects.

X1.2 Summary of Changes in Classification C 930 – 85:

X1.2.1 Descriptions of Terms Specific to This Standard—This section replaced the former Section 2 on Definitions. All of the terms were new and relate to terms used.

X1.2.2 Significance and Use—This section was new. It focuses on identification of the potential concerns and effects that may occur during the life cycle (installation, service, removal, and disposal) of insulation materials and accessories, and points out that remedial or preventative steps are not identified.

X1.2.3 Basis of Classification—This section replaced the previous 3, “General Types of Hazard” of Classification C 930– 80. It reflects a new approach to the grouping and identification of potentials. All sections are concerned with potentials that may occur during and after installation.

X1.2.4 Table 1, Potential Health Effects—The terminology of products, etc., were upgraded and the quantifiers were removed from “potential effects on humans.”

X1.2.5 Table 2, Potential for Traumatic Injury—This table replaced the former Table 2, “Mechanical Safety Hazards,” and principally covers electric shock potentials.

X1.2.6 Table 3, Potential Effects Resulting from Combustion—This table reflects the intent of the previous Table 3.

X1.2.7 Table 4, Potential Effects Resulting from Structural Conditions—This new category recognizes that there may be an effect from moisture on certain structural components, or from uncontemplated additional weight load of added insulating materials. All items listed in the previous Table 4 of Classification C 930 – 80 are now listed under Table 1 and Table 2.

X1.2.8 Appendix XI—This appendix provides details on the current changes to Classification C 930.

X1.2.9 Appendix X2—This appendix continues the sources of information listed in Classification C 930 – 80.

X1.2.10 Appendix X3—This appendix covers additional items of concern on possible situations where generalization is difficult, but where there may be lack of compatibility between individual components of an insulation system. These items were contained in Section 4 of Classification C 930 – 80.

X1.3 Summary of Changes in Classification C 930 – 92:

X1.3.1 Basis of Classification—Paragraph 4.2.1 reflects a revised approach to identifying potential health effects on humans through use of the MSDS, which are readily available and which provide comprehensive, up-to-date information.

X2. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

X2.1 Where questions arise about the effects of a specific insulation component, by itself, or in combination with other materials in a system for use in a specific environment, the first source for knowledgeable information is the component or system manufacturer should be the first contact for information. Information from trade or industry associations, government agencies, and others should be regarded as secondary. Some specific sources are listed below.

American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists
P. O. Box 1937
Cincinnati, OH 45201

American Industrial Hygiene Assn.
475 Wolf Ledges Parkway
Akron, OH 44311

American National Standards Inst.
1430 Broadway
New York, NY 10018

American Society for Testing and Materials
(Committees C-16 and E-34)
100 Barr Harbor Drive
West Conshohocken, PA 19428

Asbestos Information Association/ North America
Crystal Plaza 4, Suite 509
1745 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202

Consumer Product Safety Commission
1111 18th St., N.W.

Washington, DC 20207

Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave, S.W.
Washington, DC 20207

Environmental Protection Agency
401 M St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Federal Trade Commission
Pennsylvania Ave. at 6th St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20580

Insulation Contractors Association of America
1321 Duke St., #303
Alexandria, VA 22314

International Isocyanate Institute, Inc.
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10020

Library of Congress
10 First St., S.E.
Washington, DC 20540

Manufacturing Chemists Assn.
1825 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20009

National Academy of Sciences
1825 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20009

National Association of Urea Foam Insulation Manufacturers
8025 Dixie Highway
C 930

Florence, KY 41042
National Fire Protection Assn.
Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02269
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Center for Disease Control
1600 Clifton Rd.
Atlanta, GA 30333
National Research Council
2101 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20418
National Roofing Contractors Association
8600 Bryn Mawr Ave.
Chicago, IL 60631
National Safety Council
444 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60611
National Science Foundation
1800 G St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20550
National Technical Information Service
U. S. Department of Commerce
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
North American Insulation Manufacturers Assn.
44 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 310
Alexandria, VA 22314
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
200 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20210
Office of Toxic Substances, EPA
401 M St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20460
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association
1001 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20004
Society of the Plastics Industry
1801 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20006–1301
Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers Assn.
1075 Central Park Ave.
Scarsdale, NY 10583
Thermal Insulation Manufacturers Assn.
7 Kirby Plaza
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549
Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.
333 Pfingsten Rd.
Northbrook, IL 60062
World Health Organization
23rd St. and Virginia Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20037

X.3. OTHER CONCERNS

X.3.1 Lack of compatibility of the individual components of an insulation system with each other, or the environmental conditions within which the system will operate, or both, may create unanticipated potentials. Generalization about such potentials is difficult, but three examples may be illustrative, as follows:

X.3.1.1 Under certain conditions, the presence of chloride ion can cause stress corrosion cracking failure of austenitic stainless steel. Some insulation materials may contain chlorides or act to collect chlorides from the environment in sufficient quantity to initiate such failure. If the stainless steel is serving to contain a hazardous material, failure of the steel will result in uncontrolled release of the hazardous material.

X.3.1.2 Aluminum is frequently used as a protective and reflective surface in insulation systems. However, within the containment vessel of some types of nuclear power units, the use of aluminum is prohibited. The reason for this prohibition is that under loss of reactor coolant conditions, the reactor coolant (acidic) coming in contact with aluminum, generates hydrogen, creating potentially explosive conditions.

X.3.1.3 Some high-flash point organic-based liquids (terpheryl compounds, hydraulic fluids, and others) have their autoignition temperature reduced by several hundred degrees Celsius when they are absorbed by some (calcium silicate is one) insulations and then exposed to elevated temperatures. Spontaneous combustion can occur under such circumstances, at temperatures well below those considered safe for such liquids.

X.3.1.4 The above examples are only three of many possible situations. Other potential concerns and effects not listed in this standard should be brought to the attention of ASTM Committee C-16 for consideration and possible incorporation into this classification.

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