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RESEARCH REPORT: RR 25087
(CSI #09510)

Expires: October 1, 2009

Attn: Christina Copeland
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GENERAL APPROVAL - Renewal - Thermo-Tile Molded Polystyrene Ceiling Tiles and Ceiling Panels.

DETAILS

Thermo-Tile Molded Polystyrene Ceiling Tiles and Panels are approved as a non-fire rated ceiling finish. The tiles and panels are molded from BF-grade Styropor Expandable Polystyrene Beads manufactured by BASF Corporation. The tiles are 12" x 12" x 1/2" thick in size and are available in three styles (Classic, Shadow, and Contemporary). The tiles have tongue and groove edges and are intended for staple up installation. The ceiling panels are 2' x 2' or 2' x 4' in size with 5/8-inch or 1-inch thickness. The ceiling panels are intended for installation in suspended ceiling grid systems and may be installed below automatic sprinkler heads.

The approval is subject to the following conditions:

1. The tiles and panels shall only be used in locations where combustible construction is permitted by the 2002 Los Angeles City Building Code.
2. The drop-out panels (panels installed below the sprinkler heads) shall be permitted for use in general office and retail areas only. The drop-out panels shall not be installed in required exit corridors and in mall areas.
3. As required by Section 2003(d) of the Los Angeles City Mechanical Code, the ceiling tiles and panels shall not be installed within 18-inches (in any direction) of a grease hood or grease duct.

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4. The space above the ceiling panels shall not be used as an air plenum. Ducts shall comply with Section 1002(a) of the Los Angeles City Mechanical Code and shall extend through the ceiling envelope.
5. The ceiling tiles shall not be installed on any fire rated floor-ceiling or roof-ceiling assembly.
6. The ceiling tiles and panels shall not be painted or coated.
7. Maximum flame spread and smoke density ratings as specified in Tables No. 8-A and 8-B of the 2002 Los Angeles City Building Code shall not be exceeded. The flame spread and smoke density ratings of the Thermo-Tile ceiling tiles and panels when tested in accordance with UBC Standard No. 8-1 (ASTM E-84) are as follows:

	Flame Spread	Smoke Density
½" Tile	15	230
⅝" Panel	10	190
1" Panel	10	360

8. Thermo-Tile ceiling tiles and panels shall be installed per the manufacturer's instructions. Restraining clips shall not be used to install the drop-out ceiling panels. The drop-out panels shall be installed a minimum of 36-inches below the sprinkler heads. The ceiling tiles shall be stapled to a solid nailable backing with four ½-inch staples per tile.
9. The manufacturer's name and product designation shall be marked on each ceiling tile and panel.
10. Where an automatic sprinkler system is required by the 2002 Los Angeles City Building Code, the sprinkler system shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of the Los Angeles City Plumbing Code and shall be approved by Mechanical Engineering of the Department of Building and Safety specifically for use with drop-out ceiling panels.

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DISCUSSION

The approval is based on test requirements of Section 91.2602.6 of the 2002 Los Angeles City Building Code. Test results showed that the ceiling panels dropped out at a temperature below 550EF.

The BF-Grade Styropor Expandable Polystyrene Beads manufactured by BASF Corporation are approved by Research Report No. 24943.

Addressee to whom this Research Report is issued is responsible for providing copies of it, complete with any attachments indicated, to architects, engineers and builders using items approved herein in design or construction which must be approved by Department of Building and Safety Engineers and Inspectors.

This general approval of an equivalent alternate to the Code is only valid where an engineer and/or inspector of this Department has determined that all conditions of this approval have been met in the project in which it is to be used.

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