COSHH sheet

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EPS (FUSED PRODUCTS) – INCORPORATING COSHH INFORMATION

Product Scope
The information contained in this data sheet is relevant to products supplied by Springvale EPS in the form of: (ex mould trimmed), cut sheet or specific cut shapes/ pieces derived from Springvale EPS block.

Product Description
Products are self-coloured tending generally to a white appearance. Springvale EPS products are CFC & HCFC free and these agents are not used at any stage in product manufacture.

Applications
Springvale EPS supply products that are most commonly used in building, civil engineering or packaging applications.

The closed cell structure of the material offers excellent insulation properties in addition to mechanical strength. It is a first class cushioning material.

Product Specification
Springvale EPS manufacture generally in accordance with BS3837 Pt 1 (1986) and any product utilising an identifiable reference from that standard will meet or exceed the requirement of the standard.

There are numerous specific additional grades, which Springvale EPS utilise to meet given customer applications or requirements where a specific a specific BS3837 grade is inadequate. Any such product has unique references and (where appropriate) colour markings to ensure proper identification.

Approvals
Springvale EPS Quality System fully meets the requirements of BS5750 Pt 2 1987 (ISO9002 – 1987) and was independently assessed and first approved by LRQA, a certified third party assessor, on 18 April 1991. LRQA certificate No. 901709.

Springvale EPS has current British Board of Agrément certificates of approval for a number of relevant products. Details on request.

Product Marketing
Block supplied ex mould will bear unique identification details to permit specific traceability.

Cut sheet will bear colour coded edge striping to identify product grades and where such grades are specific to the British Standard (BS3837 Pt 1) will comply with the requirement of that standard.

Cut shapes / pieces will not usually bear any codes or markings unless specifically requested at the time of order placement / acceptance

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Packaging

Ex mould and trimmed block are usually supplied without packaging.

Cut sheet is generally made into suitable packs wrapped in transparent plastic sheeting. For certain applications and by agreement with the customer cut sheet may be supplied unwrapped.

Cut shapes / pieces are supplied boxed or bagged depending upon supplied quantity and/or specific customer requirements.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

Industrial Health/Toxicity

EPS is non-toxic and non-irritant therefore no specific precautions are necessary with respect to the handling of supplied products. Obviously ingestion should be avoided.

EPS is completely free of the presence of any heavy metals.

EPS does not suffer from mould or fungus attack. It offers no utility to vermin and is therefore no attraction to insects or rodents.

EPS is easily transported and handled due to its light nature.

EPS products from Springvale EPS are available in a standard form or with an integral flame retardant (these grades may also be referred to as regular/ordinary and FRA respectively).

EPS is a combustible material and appropriate precautions must be taken at all stages to avoid ignition and to store product in a safe manner.

Further guidance relating to storage and fire hazards follows.

FIRE HAZARD INFORMATION

Combustibility

All grades, types and densities of expanded polystyrene materials are combustible as defined by BS 476 : Part 4 : 1970. Under certain circumstances, expanded polystyrene materials can be ignited by a naked flame. Care should, therefore, be taken to avoid contact with potential ignition hazards when handling and storing the material.

FRA grades of EPS contain a small quantity of fire retardant agent (max. 0.5%). This is the fire retardant hexabromocyclododecan (HBCD). This has a beneficial effect when EPS is exposed to a fire source. The foam shrinks rapidly away from the heat source, thus reducing the likelihood of ignition. The decomposition products of the additive(s) cause flame quenching so that when the ignition source is removed, the EPS will not continue to burn.

Expanded polystyrene materials should be stored away from flammable material such as paints and solvents.

All staff should be made aware that expanded polystyrene materials are combustible. Smoking should be prohibited in storage and processing areas and ‘No Smoking’ notices should be prominently displayed.

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Storage and working areas should be kept free from rubbish that may spread fire or ignite spontaneously. Stockpiles should be sited so that, in the event of a fire, flowing or dripping molten material will not cause the spread of fire to other combustible materials or to other areas of a building, in particular staircases and corridors. Storage should be in a level situation at ground level (not on ramps). Where storage on upper floors is unavoidable the recommendations of BS 6203:1991 should be complied with.

Automatic sprinkler systems are recommended for all buildings storing large quantities of expanded polystyrene materials.

Smoke and fumes

The gases in the event of a fire where EPS is involved do not differ in essence from those given off by organic materials such as wood and paper and include carbon dioxide and water. Other constituents, the concentration of which depends on the conditions under which the fire occurs, are carbon monoxide and soot. Traces of hydrogen bromide are also given off during the combustion of flame retardant grade material. There is, however, no environmental hazard in the form of toxic fumes or water pollution. Any traces of hydrogen bromide that may be dissolved in the water used for fire fighting and thus enter the drains can be regarded as negligible.

Procedure in the event of fire

If there is an outbreak of fire the fire brigade should be summoned immediately and the area evacuated by all personnel except those fighting the fire.

Fire involving EPS can spread very quickly. A small fire should be tackled at once using water, CO2, dry powder or BCF extinguishers.

The emissions given off and the residues remaining when EPS (with and without flame retardant) is burnt do not present any particular danger to the environment. Extinguishing water resulting from EPS fires and fire residues can be disposed of without any special treatment in municipal installations for sewage and solid waste, respectively.

Environmental issues

EPS fused products are chemically neutral. They may be disposed of without any problems. EPS does not react with ground water nor produce any gases when landfilled. Due to its lightweight cellular structure it assists the aeration at landfills and burns completely in Municipal Waste Incinerators. Springvale EPS gives the above information in good faith and no liability is accepted.
The responsibility for safe working and compliance with legislation or any local requirements rests with the purchaser and user.

Users are recommended to seek guidance from their local fire authorities and health and safety inspectorate to ensure safe practice in relation to given site/factory circumstances.