



Spray Foam
Coalition

To: Canadian Spray Foam Value Chain

From: American Chemistry Council's Spray Foam Coalition

Date: August 2021

RE: Navigating Spray Foam Paperwork and Quality Control Checklist

The American Chemistry Council's Spray Foam Coalition (SFC) represents spray foam systems houses doing business in the United States and Canada. SFC systems houses (manufacturers) take pride in developing quality products for the Canadian market. Spray foam systems houses dedicate significant resources to ensure Canadian spray foam products meet or exceed Canadian Codes and can be properly installed in Canada's climate conditions. Recent changes to the CAN/ULC standards, National Building Code of Canada, and Provincial Codes require special attention to product listings. It is important that product specifiers learn to identify which standard was used to develop, or qualify, the product listing. Before selecting a product, designers and specifiers should ensure the product listing complies with the local building code and ensure product performance is being compared using the same standards.

Product Listings

Spray foam systems houses typically list their products with third party listing agencies. The two primary listing agencies for spray foam products are the Canadian Construction Materials Centre (CCMC) and Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC). Product listing reports provide third party assessment of the physical properties and performance of spray foam products. This helps product specifiers and building code officials ensure that products are compliant with local code requirements. Among the most important aspects of the listing is the reference to Code requirements. The current version of the National Building Code of Canada contains an undated reference to the Medium Density (Closed Cell) Spray Polyurethane Foam (MD SPF) Material Standard (CAN/ULC S705.1) implying that the latest revision should be used to qualify products. The provincial codes in Ontario, BC, and Quebec reference the 2015 standard. However, the provincial code in Alberta references the 2003 version.

Qualifying Product Listings

CAN/ULC S705.1 is under continuous maintenance. Minor revisions will be immediately implemented on an on-going basis. This will require designers to pay close attention to how a product was qualified when reviewing product listings.

The National Building Code of Canada and, by extension, Provincial Codes are moving towards undated references to standards. This means the manufacturers must always comply with the most recent version of the standard. Therefore, unless a Provincial Code states otherwise, listings for spray foam products should be qualified using the most recent published version.

CAN/ULC S705.1 M-15 versus earlier versions—Why is it important

Products qualified using versions of CAN/ULC S705.1 published prior to 2015 cannot be easily compared to products qualified using versions of CAN/ULC S2015.1 2015 or later. In 2015, CAN/ULC S705.1 was updated to require:

- more restrictive requirements for dimensional stability, and
- lower predicted Long Term Thermal Performance (LTTR) test results.

Due to the changes to the standard, it is not appropriate to compare dimensional stability or thermal performance of a product compliant with CAN/ULC S705.1 2015 or later versions to products that have been qualified using previous versions of the standard—products that meet the earlier versions of the standard may not meet the requirements of the current version.

Depending on when Provincial Codes were last updated, the referenced version of various standards may differ slightly from one province to the next. Most Provinces have Codes that reference the 2015 version (i.e. CAN/ULC S705.1 2015) of the standard. Ultimately, SFC anticipates that all Provincial Codes will be updated to use undated references to CAN/ULC S705.1

Ensuring Compliance

Product specifiers and code officials should ensure that spray foam products are compliant with the local building code. If the reference to CAN/ULC S705.1 is undated, MD SPF should comply with the most recent publication.

If an installer is unable to provide a CCMC or ULC listing for a product that is to the referenced version of the standard (i.e. CAN/ULC S705.1 2015 or later), it could mean that the product that is not compliant with the current version of the National Building Code of Canada or local provincial code. Builders, architects, and designers should closely check the requirements in Provincial Codes to determine the appropriate version of standard.

When comparing CCMC and ULC Listings, it is important to ensure that comparisons are done across the same Standards. The attached infographic serves to help product specifiers determine the standard that was used to underwrite the listing.

The Spray Foam Coalition remains committed to Product Stewardship and high levels of professionalism in the SPF industry. We hope you find this information helpful. For more information on the SFC and spray foam go to <https://polyurethane.americanchemistry.com/Spray-Foam-Coalition/> and www.whysprayfoam.org.