

ALPOLIC® & ALPOLIC®/fr

M A T E R I A L S

 MITSUBISHI PLASTICS COMPOSITES AMERICA, INC.

Newsletter No. 0310

Date: 3/1/10

Subject: First 2010 Newsletter

Attention ALPOLIC Materials Customers:

Please note that we have added two sections including Product Update and Sample / Literature Updates to this newsletter. We hope these sections will be informative for your continued support of Mitsubishi Plastics Composites Americas Products (MPCA)

Product Updates

MPCA is pleased to stock a new ALPOLIC / fr in the Timber Series. The material will be 4mm Mahogany (*QAE Mahogany*) produced as 62" x 196". Stock material should be available in April.

ALPOLIC will also be changing the stock size for ALPOLIC / fr Timber Series Maple (*MPL Maple*) to 62" x 196"

Shell Evo. program is currently being stocked by ALPOLIC Materials. Available products include colors EWH and EYL 3mm in 40" and 51". 2-Color material is available in 40" (*Spec 234*) and 51" (*Spec 235*).

BLX 3mm in 51" x 123" has been removed from the stock material list along with CNB Tan 3mm 48" x 120". BLX 3mm is still stocked in 48" x 120".

In the ALPOLIC / fr LT product series, the following products will no longer be stocked. 3mmfrltnN4 (*Black / Gray*), 3mmfrltS1 (*Black Granite*), 3mmfrltS2 (*White Granite*), 3mmfrltS3 (*Red Granite*), 3mmfrltS4 (*Pink Granite*), and 3mmfrltS7 (*Sandstone Matte*). These products will however still be available with a minimum order quantity.

Sample / Literature Updates

Custom color PMB had been removed from the Blue Color Set

6mm fr core MCM Panels

Recently we have been made aware that there may be some confusion in the field regarding the availability of 6 mm fr MCM panels, their use and application and their test status. A competitor has sent out an E mail discussing the availability and need for this product type (please see the comments in italics below). We would like to clarify ALPOLIC Materials position on these products:

Question	ALPOLIC's Response	<i>Competitor's Response</i>
Can a 6mm fr MCM panel be produced?	ALPOLIC Materials state of the art manufacturing facilities in Chesapeake Virginia and in Japan have been designed and constructed to optimize the value we can provide to our customers through a wide range of product offerings. All of ALPOLIC Materials' lamination lines have the capability to produce 4 and 6 mm fr MCM products	<i>Theoretically yes, by adding two millimeters of plastic compounded FR core material to the industry standard 4 mm FR</i>
Why are you unwilling to do so?	Currently ALPOLC Materials standard fr core MCM products are available as stocking items in the 4 mm thickness. Any product we produce in the 4 mm thickness can be made in a 6 mm thickness. ALPOLIC Materials recognizes that the customer defines what is best for their project and we work hard to provide the customer with the products they specify.	<i>Actually it is not so much an Unwillingness to do so as it is a reluctance to produce something with no clear benefit</i>

Question	ALPOLIC's Response	<i>Competitor's Response</i>
What are the primary differences?	<p>The 6mm fr panels are slightly heavier and they are more rigid, increasing the allowable spacing between stiffeners. Both 4 mm and 6 mm fr core MCM panels are tested to and meet all of the requirements as called out in the current International Building Code. ALPOLIC Materials has been producing 6 mm fr core panels for over 15 years.</p>	<p><i>The 6mm FR is heavier, more costly and has no proven track record.</i></p>
Has the 6 mm fr core been tested and passed the International Building Code requirements?	<p>The 6 mm fr core panels were first successfully tested to the older model building codes, and listed as compliant, when the products were introduced in the 1990s. ALPOLIC Materials has continually tested these products and has maintained a listing report to document the products compliance ever since. This listing report is a matter of public record, readily available to anyone interested in the USE of fr core MCM panels, and can be found on the ICC-ES web page, please search for ER4934, as well as the ALPOLIC Materials web page, where it can be found in our download section under Building Codes ICC-ES ICBO (FR Core).</p>	<p><i>We have not tested the 6 mm FR product. We believe adding more plastic compounded core to the panel would make it more difficult to achieve the outstanding results provided by the standard 4 mm FR which has been extensively tested and the standard in the industry for almost 20 years</i></p>

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As far as systems go would the 6 mm fr work in a 4 mm fr system?	This would depend on the system being specified. Some mounting systems can accommodate both a 4 and 6 mm thick panel some can not.	<i>Probably not. Most panel perimeter extrusion systems would have to be altered, a new extrusion die would have to be produced and a new inventory of 6 mm extrusions would be required.</i>
Would the requirement for different extrusions add cost?	The overall costs of the extrusions, panel materials, stiffeners, etc. are determined by the final project design. The actual cost of the extrusions would not be significantly different for a 4 or 6mm system	<i>Yes. Also adding to the cost of the 6 mm FR are the heavier thicker panel structure; higher transportation costs; and additional labor required for handling and installing the heavier panels</i>
6 mm fr is an easy fit into glazing mullions: can 4 mm fr be used in these same applications?	While 4 mm panels can be made to fit into a glazing mullion better suited for a 6 mm panel the additional cost for gaskets and shims as well as the reduced rigidity does not make this a desirable alternative.	<i>Yes. Most mullion manufacturers provide gaskets and shims that allow 4 mm FR to fit snugly into glazing pockets.</i>

We hope this information answers any questions regarding the use of the 6 mm fr core ACM panels offered by ALPOLIC Materials. If you need additional information please contact our Customer service and technical service personnel at 1-800-422-7270, ext 1

Competitors responses from an ALCOA E mail dated January 11, 2010