



Building Solutions

xenergy

Top 20 frequently asked questions



Up to
11%
better insulation performance*

1. What's so special about XENERGY?

- »» XENERGY™ offers the proven features of STYROFOAM™ extruded polystyrene (XPS) – such as durability, moisture resistance and high compressive strength – with significantly improved lambda values.
- »» To give an example, XENERGY SL – designed for roofing applications – offers declared thermal conductivity of 0.032 W/mK in thicknesses of 140mm, 160mm, 180mm and 200mm compared to 0.036 W/mK in the same thicknesses of ROOFMATE SL-A.
- »» XENERGY also has a 'steel grey' appearance in contrast to the distinctive blue of STYROFOAM XPS because the material incorporates infra-red 'blockers' which improve the thermal resistance of the polystyrene foam.

2. What are infra-red blockers/particles?

- »» These are very small particles which are finely dispersed and incorporated into the cell wall structure of extruded polystyrene. The particles scatter and reflect heat radiation, resulting in reduced heat transfer during winter to keep a building warm, as well as in summer to keep it cool.

3. Is it still an XPS material?

- »» Yes, XENERGY is extruded polystyrene but with the addition of infra-red 'blockers' or particles which are finely dispersed and incorporated into the cell walls to help scatter and reflect heat radiation.

4. Why isn't the material blue, like STYROFOAM XPS?

»» The colour of XENERGY is determined by the colour of the infra-red blockers we use.

5. What applications is XENERGY most suitable for?

»» In the UK, we are initially launching XENERGY SL designed for inverted roof insulation.

»» XENERGY SL is a launch pad for us in the UK, and we will monitor its performance before making decisions about whether to make other grades available.

6. How will the market benefit?

»» The launch of XENERGY is designed to give specifiers and contractors greater choice and is designed to complement not replace ROOFMATE SL-A.

»» The market has already benefited from recent technological advances in the STYROFOAM range such as the introduction of CO₂ blown STYROFOAM-A in 2010 and the improvements across the STYROFOAM-A product range of 0.002W/mK in 2011.

»» The introduction of XENERGY SL means that specifiers and contractors will benefit from all the well-known properties of ROOFMATE SL-A such as excellent freeze/thaw performance, low water absorption and high compressive strength but will also have access to a CO₂-blown XPS with improved thermal conductivity.

»» XENERGY is designed to support designers where thickness might be an issue e.g. a desire to lower parapet heights. It offers greater design choice without compromising on the tried and tested features and benefits of STYROFOAM XPS.

7. What thicknesses of XENERGY SL are available?

»» XENERGY SL is available in thicknesses of 100mm, 120mm, 140mm, 160mm, 180mm and 200mm, all of which have declared thermal conductivity of 0.032W/mK.

8. How does this compare to ROOFMATE SL-A?

»» ROOFMATE SL-A is available in thicknesses of 100mm, 120mm, 140mm, 160mm, 180mm and 200mm. Declared thermal conductivity of ROOFMATE SL-A is 0.034 W/mK for thicknesses of 100-120mm and 0.036 for thicknesses above 121mm.

9. What are the board dimensions?

»» XENERGY SL is available in widths of 600mm and lengths of 1,250mm.

10. Will you be seeking a BBA certificate for XENERGY SL?

»» The intention is to do so.

11. XENERGY SL is already available on the Continent: why have you decided to launch it in the UK now?

»» Our manufacturing colleagues have spent some time perfecting the development of the thicker foams required to support Part L regulations – now we have access to a wider range of thicknesses we have decided the time is right to make the product available in the UK.

12. Why should I continue to specify ROOFMATE SL-A if XENERGY SL is so much better?

»» STYROFOAM ROOFMATE SL-A products have been used for inverted roofs in the UK since the 1960s and well before that in North America.

»» With recent improvements to thermal conductivity of STYROFOAM-A across the product range of 0.002 W/mK - combined with the material's high compressive strength and excellent moisture resistance – we believe ROOFMATE SL-A will continue to be a popular choice in inverted roofing alongside XENERGY SL.

»» XENERGY SL is an extension to the XPS range offered by Dow Building Solutions, and is designed to offer premium performance at selected thicknesses.

13. Can it help me achieve any BREEAM credits, if so which ones?

»» In addition to its function as a thermal insulation which helps to deliver credits, Dow operates an Environmental Management System which has accomplished ISO 14001: 2004.

For XENERGY SL this relates to the manufacture of the product and the raw polymer material, meaning it qualifies for one credit under Mat 6 insulation.

14. How will it help achieve Code for Sustainable Housing credits, if any?

»» In addition to its function as a thermal insulation which helps to deliver credits, it has a Global Warming Potential of less than five.

15. Where is XENERGY SL manufactured?

»» Currently at Dow's sites in Schkopau, Germany and Lavrion, Greece.

16. Is it or will it be manufactured in the UK?

»» It is not currently manufactured in the UK unlike STYROFOAM products, but we will monitor the uptake of XENERGY SL in the UK and make decisions accordingly.

17. Will you be keeping stocks in the UK?

»» If our distributors wish to purchase and hold stock we will of course aim to support their needs.

18. Can I order direct from Dow?

»» XENERGY SL is available via Dow's distributors. Visit www.styrofoam.co.uk for stockist information.

19. How quickly could it be onsite from the time I put in an order?

»» We recommend you to talk to us at the time of placing an order to discuss delivery arrangements and timescales.

20. Where I can I get technical help from?

»» You can either email fkltch@dow.com or call **08707 104 553**.

Or go to the XENERGY pages of our website at www.dowxenergy.co.uk where you can download the technical data sheet and other information.

Literature and product info: www.dowxenergy.co.uk

Technical support: dbsuk@dow.com

Other enquiries: xenergyuk@dow.com

* Declared thermal conductivity of XENERGY SL is 0.032 W/mK being an 11.1% improvement compared with ROOFMATE SL-A in thicknesses of 140mm, 160mm, 180mm and 200mm (declared thermal conductivity 0.036 W/mK) and a 5.9% improvement compared with ROOFMATE SL-A in 100mm and 120mm thicknesses (declared thermal conductivity 0.034 W/mK).

Manufactured and tested in accordance with BS EN 13164.

Note:

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