

3M™ Introduces Thinsulate™ Insulation FR

A Leader in Warmth and Comfort Adds Flame Resistance Benefits to Range of Workwear

3M™, a leader in nonwoven fiber technology, announced today the launch of Thinsulate™ Insulation FR for the occupational workplace. For more than 25 years, the occupational industry has recognized Thinsulate insulation as a lightweight material that helps keep workers warm and comfortable.

Now workers can achieve that same level of warmth and comfort with the added bonus of flame resistance. New Thinsulate insulation FR is designed specifically for garments made for the electrical utility and oil and gas workplaces, where momentary, unplanned or accidental exposure to flames, heat or electrical arc may occur. Thinsulate insulation FR has exceptional thermal weight efficiency making it ideal for outdoor environments, so workers can tackle tough jobs in comfort.

Made from a blend of aramid, modacrylic and polyester fibers, the material is designed as a mid-loft product with quality drape characteristics to aid in garment styling. In addition, the lofty fibrous webs trap more air and contain more of the body's radiant heat than higher density needle-punched webs, thereby maintaining warmth and breathability.

"We are a global leader in high-performance materials, with many products to meet rigorous workplace requirements," said Chris Sneden, Global Business Manager, Thinsulate Insulation. "For example, 3M Scotchlite™ Reflective Material has helped enhance workers' visibility at night. Now, Thinsulate insulation FR will add a new layer of reliability to flame-resistant workwear while helping to keep workers warm and comfortable."

Thinsulate insulation FR maintains its stability throughout the cutting and manufacturing process, making it ideal for quilted constructions for a wide spectrum of garments that workers require, including parkas, vests and coveralls.

Additionally, the material maintains its flame resistance for the expected life of the garment, even after repeated home washings, industrial hot water washings or dry cleaning due to the utilization of inherently FR fibers.

Thinsulate insulation FR has been tested in accordance with ASTM D 6413-99 Standard Test Method for Flame Resistance of Textiles (Vertical Burn). It also has been tested according to EN ISO 15025:2002 and received an Index 1 rating.

Refer to the Thinsulate™ Insulation FR Technical Data Sheet for limitations of use.

About 3M - A Global, Diversified Technology Company

Every day, 3M people find new ways to make amazing things happen. Wherever they are, whatever they do, the company's customers know they can rely on 3M to help make their lives better. 3M's brands include Scotch, Post-it, Scotchgard, Thinsulate, Scotch-Brite, Filtrete, Command and Vikuiti. Serving customers around the world, the people of 3M use their expertise, technologies and global strength to lead in major markets including consumer and office; display and graphics; electronics and telecommunications; safety, security and protection services; health care; industrial and transportation. For more information, including the latest product and technology news, visit www.3M.com.

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Cohn & Wolfe
Kim Dresdale, 212-798-9868kimberly_dresdale@cohnwolfe.com
3M Public Relations
Colleen Harris, 651-733-1566http://www.3m.com/PressContact

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