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IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL SPECIFIERS AND BUILDING CERTIFIERS BEWARE OF UNSUBSTANTIATED R-VALUE CLAIMS

The Aluminium Foil Insulation Association (AFIA) is Australia's peak industry body representing Australia's independent radiant barrier and thermo-reflective insulation manufacturers.

It has recently been brought to AFIA's attention that some insulation companies operating in Queensland, may be promoting unsubstantiated total in-service computation R-Values that have not been subjected to independent assessment and have not been calculated in accordance with current Australian and International Standards.

All insulation products marketed using the in-service thermal performance assessment methodology should detail; the direction of heat flow, mean operating temperature (installed orientation) and compression where applicable.

It is a well known fact that many insulation products are only laboratory tested at a mean temperature of 23°C which is well short of the operating temperatures commonly experienced under a metal roof in Queensland.

As detailed in the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) and Housing Industry Association (HIA) jointly funded, *Insulation Management Guide*;

"In hot climates the R-value of bulk insulation directly under roof cover may be reduce by up to 40% of the advertised value."

"Detailed analysis should be undertaken to ensure that the required R value can be achieved and maintained."

(Source: AGO/HIA PATHE, *Insulation Management Guide to Residential Building*, pp8)

It is considerations such as this that must be included when calculating in-service performance R-values. If these considerations are not included, the client may be receiving a product that does not perform to expectation resulting in an increase in discomfort and or the under specification of air-conditioning plant etc.

In this scenario it is the building certifier and specifier that may be held responsible as they have an established duty of care to ensure that the client receives what has been specified and paid for.

**For further details, please contact the Aluminium Foil Insulation Association on
03 9553 2123**