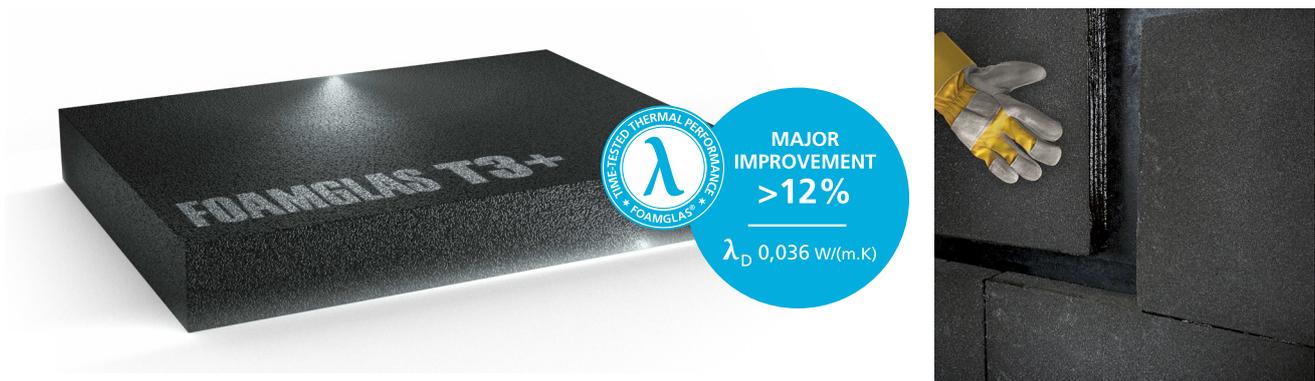


FOAMGLAS® LAUNCHES THE NEXT GENERATION IN CELLULAR GLASS SPECTACULAR IMPROVEMENT OF LAMDA-VALUE BY MORE THAN 12%



FOAMGLAS® in Tessenderlo (Belgium) presents a breakthrough in the field of cellular glass. Following the development of an innovative technology and years of research, the new FOAMGLAS® T3+ boasts a lambda-value of 0,036 W/mK, improving its predecessor by an ample 12%. “Thanks to this innovation, we can offer our customers the unique properties of cellular glass, enriched with an unprecedented thermal and economic added value, without additional cost”, says Frank Vanhove, Managing Director Benelux. For FOAMGLAS® this is the most radical product innovation in 30 years.

FOAMGLAS® cellular glass is widely known in the construction industry as a stiff foam, combining some extraordinary properties such as a remarkable compressive strength, long lasting thermal insulation performance and incombustibility. Cellular glass is also capable of preventing thermal bridges, as its compressive strength allows to be built on directly. These properties remain for generations, being insensitive to water ingress and vapour, shrinkage, mildew, corrosion or changes in temperature. FOAMGLAS® is therefore applied throughout the entire building envelope, from roofs to subterranean walls and in various applications (from parking decks and swimming pools to mission-critical and safety-demanding environments such as hospitals and the chemical industry.)

BREAKTHROUGH IN THE INDUSTRY

The new development FOAMGLAS® T3+ opens up the doors to new possibilities. After more than four years of Research and Development, the team of FOAMGLAS® in Tessenderlo Belgium, part of the Pittsburgh Corning Group, has developed and applied an innovative technology in the new product. As a result, the insulating capacity of FOAMGLAS® T3+ has been improved by more than 12% (from =0,041 to 0,036 W/mK). Thus making it on par with other mineral insulation materials.

Frank Vanhove, Managing Director Benelux says: “This innovative product adds a new key asset to the unique FOAMGLAS® properties. Thanks to the substantially enhanced insulation capability, the material can be applied in a lesser thickness or fewer layers. That means a significant gain in cost and time. And that’s why FOAMGLAS® T3+ is considered to be our most important innovation in 30 years, because it offers an answer to the challenges of the construction sector. An ever better energy efficiency, as well as a better management of the total cost of a building, which entails not only the construction itself, but also the maintenance and operating costs over its entire service life. Moreover we will, alongside our traditional expertise in flat roofs, now be able to grow further in other parts of the building shell, such as facades and interior applications.”



WHERE IS THE INNOVATION IN FOAMGLAS® T3+?

“Producing good cellular glass is a complex and subtle affair, and improving or adapting the mature process even more”, says R&D Manager Stijn Verlaak. “It is preceded by years of research and testing. The greatest challenge is not to affect the typical properties such as fire resistance and compressive strength. In brief, we succeeded in using less glass, as a result of which the material insulates better. Usually this is coupled with a significant loss of compressive strength, but the new technology ensures a finer cell structure to avoid this. Ground breaking in our industry! The preliminary research took around 3 years, with another 1.5 years of production tests and an investment of 1.2 million euros in new technology.”

Frank Vanhove concludes: “Thanks to the know-how and creativity of our people, we were able to radically reshape our production process, without influencing the well-known advantages of our product. T3+ will be sold to our customers without a price premium to the existing product, generating a significant saving for them. Naturally we are proud to have redrawn the scope of applications for cellular glass.”

WHAT IS FOAMGLAS®?

Cellular glass is created when glass is given a cell structure through the gasification of carbon. The raw material for FOAMGLAS® is at least 60% recycled glass material (especially from car windows), supplemented by mineral substances such as sand, dolomite and iron oxide. In a melting furnace this mixture is melted into glass, pulverised in a grinding installation and finally mixed with a small quantity of carbon powder. In a second furnace, this powder mixture is heated once again and there develop millions of tiny, hermetically-sealed glass cells causing it to ‘rise’ until it takes the form of a hard foam. It is these glass cells that lend FOAMGLAS® its exceptional qualities. The entire production chain is virtually waste-free. The dust that is generated goes back via an exhaust system to the beginning of the production chain and most of it is reused for the production of new cellular glass; the rest is ground, together with stone debris, into filler material or reused in the production of bricks.

ABOUT FOAMGLAS® PITTSBURGH CORNING

Pittsburgh Corning is the world’s largest manufacturer of cellular glass. Pittsburgh Corning Europe has been active in Tessenderlo since 1964 and in Europe has a second factory in the Czech Republic (Klãsterec). The greatest factor for establishing a site in our country at that time was the presence of white sand in Mol, the raw material that has now been replaced by recycled glass. Today the Tessenderlo production site is the headquarters for Europe and the Middle East, and also houses the European logistical centre, the Training Centre and the Research and Development facilities. 250 blue-collar workers and 120 white-collar workers work in Tessenderlo; in Europe as a whole the company has 725 employees. The production runs on a round-the-clock system, and 90% is intended for European markets.

CONTACT OR MORE INFORMATION:

An SAENEN
Head of Marketing Communication Building Business
Tel +32 (0)13 353 689
Mobile: +32 475 79 55 49
E-mail : An.saenen@foamglas.be

PITTSBURGH CORNING Europe NV/ SA
Albertkade 1
B-3980 Tessenderlo, Belgium
www.foamglas.com