

Use, the new method for searching Acermi- certified products



The Association pour la Certification des Matériaux Isolant, "ACERMI", has announced the introduction of its latest service which enables users to search for an insulating material based on its intended use.

After a year of work, representatives of insulation manufacturers and dedicated teams from Acermi, CSTB and LNE have come together to develop a simple and efficient tool available directly on its website www.acermi.com. Presentation.

As part of its goal to renew its 837 certificates in 2018, Acermi has created a tool for manufacturers wishing to include information about their products' usage. This has enabled manufacturers to enrich the database with information concerning the intended use for each of their products. The website's back office has also been completely revised to include application-based search criteria.

Example: when a user searches for an insulating product for attics, walls or floors, the search results display the insulation type for each of these uses.

The application offers greater simplicity, speed and transparency

A matrix has been created cross referencing 29 families of insulating products with 32 different uses (intended field of use). For each product with a 'type/use' pair, a description of the minimal expected characteristics is provided based on the Unified Technical Documents, the professional rules and recommendations, the Technical Assessment, the Technical Application Document, or a favourable type 'A' Technical Experimental

Assessment (ATEX).

With this notion built into the certification process, Acermi goes beyond European standards which focus solely on the intrinsic characteristics of each insulating material when it leaves the factory. Based on installation guidelines, ACERMI certification stipulates the insulation's suitability for use as defined by the manufacturer.

Example: in order for insulation to be suitable for flooring, it must have a certain mechanical resistance to compression and creep; its performance characteristics are thus also associated with its installation and use.

A simplified search method

Until now, searches were based either on the type of material, the manufacturer or on thermal performance. Acermi then certified the product's intrinsic characteristics such as its thermal performance, and its resistance to fire / water, etc. At the same time, the application documents detailed the characteristics that make it useful for a specific application. The use-based search thus makes it possible to simplify the search and instantly view the insulating materials suited to a specific use.

Example: for an insulating material liable to be subjected to a high-pressure load, Acermi certifies the insulation's inherent mechanical performance characteristics, as well as the installation document, indicating the minimum performance requirements for a given use. The user must therefore be aware of these two documents in order to use the product as intended. With this type of use-based search, the entire process is simplified, because the information can be obtained in a single step.

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SEARCHING FOR INSULATION BASED ON ITS INTENDED USE: RELIABLE AND VERIFIED INFORMATION

➤ A manufacturer, if it so wishes, can declare the intended use of the insulating materials that it manufactures.

➤ Acermi checks that a material's characteristics (particularly those related to thermal properties, i.e. traction, compression, behaviour in fire, etc.) actually correspond to the intended usage.

In this manner, Acermi declares that a given insulating material is suitable for a particular use and that the rules governing its installation must be respected. This is why all Acermi certificates bear the following annotation:

«The product identified in this certificate is suitable for the intended uses listed in the table below. This product's usage is stipulated in reference documents such as codes of practice (DTU), professional rules or recommendations, technical evaluations and Technical Application Documents. The contracting authority, main contractor, and the company shall ensure that this certificate is used in accordance with the current version of the applicable best practices.»

➤ ABOUT ACERMI

The ACERMI quality certification is awarded by the Association pour la CERTification des Matériaux Isolants, a French non-profit organization (association loi 1901) established in 1983 by the CSTB and LNE. The certification enables insulation professionals to demonstrate the performance of their products following a testing, inspection and auditing procedure.



➤ Use-based product search

Specifiers, main contractors, contracting authorities, dealers, and retail distribution professionals.

What do people think about this use-based search for insulating materials?
Testimonies

Yannick Hervé

Director,
SAPI CLOISONS
ISOLATION

Based in Melesse in the Rennes region, Sapi Cloisons Isolation manages a team of 30 tradesmen working on tertiary sites involving new construction and renovation, and energy rehabilitation in collective housing. Since 2013, the company has developed a new activity: the installation of suspended ceilings. Although it deals with many public contracts involving retirement homes, hospitals, school groups, offices and hotels, Sapi Cloisons Isolation also serves private individuals.

«We use the Association's website to ensure that an insulating material is Acermi-certified, to search for novel products and to check their performance characteristics. Using filters and sub-filters to conduct our search makes it easier and faster to find the information we're looking for, enabling us to save time and be more efficient!»

 WWW.SAPI-SAS.FR



Baudouin de La Bretesche

Director of the Structural Works,
Public Works, Interior Design and
Joinery Division, POINT P

POINT P, a multi-specialist in the Construction trade, has 850 agencies located throughout France. The company is recognised for its expertise and has earned the confidence of more than 11,000 customers in France. It is used by both professionals (80% of the activity) and individuals. POINT P offers all types of building materials for new or renovation work, as well as a complete range of energy performance solutions for the home.

«With the Acermi site, I can find out if a product is certified or not. I feel that the three search criteria, by product, manufacturer or use, are very complementary. As a distributor, I primarily perform product or manufacturer-based searches. It should be noted that the three possible search approaches enable users to research products quickly and efficiently. Anyone tasked with writing a specification for a particular use will find every corresponding product. If one of our customers has a specific question, a family and manufacturer-based search will be performed. I think that the professionals will lean more towards "family" and "manufacturer-based" searches. An architect or an engineering firm would focus more on "use". The site also provides information on tax credits and thermal resistance, which can be helpful when searching for products. Finally, the use-based search enables users to rapidly locate a product with a thermal resistance above 7, which is appreciable, while still comparing all manufacturers.»

 WWW.POINTP.FR



Gérard Sénior

**Architect and Director,
AETIC
ARCHITECTES**

Aetic Architectes is a Paris-based architecture agency with a team of six; it has specialised in HQE projects for several years. As a member of the UNSFA, the French Syndicate of Architects, Gérard Sénior leads the development and implementation of technical policy. His long experience within standardisation bodies has earned him recognition as an expert with Afnor on environmental quality standards, both in France and internationally, and on BIM (Building Information Modelling).

«When working on a project, I need to rapidly determine the finished wall thickness for existing structures and for new constructions. The thickness defines the available living area of each part of the building, room, hallways, etc. and enables me to ascertain the dimensions of a building's interior. I have performance objectives for the entire building which, depending to the project's requirements, enable me, through multi-criteria analysis, to select the insulation materials from among several families. This is part of the extremely precise design process. It all starts with the development of the project based on the intended uses. More targeted and precise information is provided as we progress. The possibility of conducting a search according to precise criteria is very practical, because in just 4 clicks one can determine what currently exists on the market, then the results can be exported and saved in a project file.»



Yann Danion

**Tradesman, Manager,
CELTIC ISOLATIONS CLOISONS
SECHES (CICS)**

Established in 2006 and based in the Morbihan region, CICS specialises in the insulation of new and refurbished energy-efficient buildings. With its expertise and know-how it accompanies its clients from the initial project phase, proposes relevant solutions based on their budget and obtains an exceptional level of energy performance. Yann Danion is also a consultant with the Unions Nationales Artisanales (National Artisans' Union) on Plaster and Insulation Techniques and Trades (Confédération de l'Artisanat et des Petites Entreprises du Bâtiment, CAPEB).

«I use the Acermi site to find information useful for cases pertaining to energy efficiency certification, regarding the product's performance characteristics and use. This is essential when validating the insurability of my structures. The new method of searching for insulation by use is interesting because it can help companies to validate a product's use. It enables us to ensure that the insulation, designated for use in a wall or ceiling application, for example, has been actually been certified for that use. It saves time, as Acermi (and manufacturers) are responsible for properly listing all the uses for a product.»

www.isolation.bzh

François Turland

**President,
BASTIDE-BONDOUX ENGINEERING**

Founded more than 35 years ago, Bastide-Bondoux is one of leaders in residential thermal insulation in France. Chaired by François Turland, this engineering firm assists its customers, builders, developers and all players in the residential buildings sector with design and consulting services in the fields of energy (thermal, renewable energies, Energy-Plus-House, fluids), the environment (carbon, life cycle analysis), and comfort (lighting, and year-round thermal energy management, well-being and interior air quality).

«With the Acermi website, we're able to qualify insulating materials during the project's design phase. Use-based search is relevant to us and it saves time during our research phase, which is essential given the number and variety of projects studied. From the outset, Bastide-Bondoux have conducted regulatory and energy optimisation studies on over 300,000 housing units, studied 70,000 projects in line with the French energy efficiency standard RT2012 and 2500 collective housing projects.»

www.bastide-bondoux.fr



Insulation & Uses

The “Use” search engine: How does it work?

1 The multi-criteria search engine features five entries: *keyword(s)*, *types of use within the building*, *insulation families*, *manufacturers*, and *thermal resistance*.

For each selection, just a few clicks are required to determine the number of certified insulation options available and download the certificates in PDF format.

2 The 32 uses listed are distributed among 7 categories*

(* For manufacturers who have not declared their product's intended use, it is still possible to search by keywords, insulation families, manufacturers and/or thermal resistance.

3 Example: ventilated cladding

The type of use in the building is selected: 76 certificates are available; Options:

- either directly display the 76 certificates,
- or narrow the search based on other criteria, by insulation families and/or by manufacturers.

The “Use” working group will continue its mission to create new usage families based on market needs.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have: secretariat.acermi@cstb.fr

4 Search results

Family	Manufacturer	Product name	R _f	E _p	Certificate no.
Expanded polystyrene (EPS)	SINAT	UNIMAT TM Façade Ultra BD	0.60 m²/KW	20 mm	12009/7907
		UNIMAT TM PLURI TH31			
		ITE PSE GRIS			
	UNIMAT TM Village ULTRA				
Expanded polystyrene (EPS)	SINAT	UNIMAT TM Façade BD	0.50 m²/KW	20 mm	03009/08013
		UNIMAT TM VÉTAGE			
		UNIMAT PLURI TH08			
	ITE PSE BLANC				
Expanded polystyrene (EPS)	PLACOPLATRE	CELLOMUR Expert	0.50 m²/KW	20 mm	12061/7938
		CELLOMUR			
		Sisal Barilage			
		CELLOMUR F			
	CELLOMUR RB				
Expanded polystyrene (EPS)	PLACOPLATRE	CELLOMUR Ultra Expert	0.60 m²/KW	20 mm	12061/79510
		CELLOMUR ULTRA			
		STISICAL BANDAGE ULTRA			
		CELLOMUR ULTRA F			
		CELLOMUR ULTRA RB			
		STISICOLMUR ULTRA BA RC80			

5 Les résultats affichés

The results displayed recall the search criteria (use, insulation, manufacturer), and also provide additional information: name of the product marketed, thermal resistance, thickness, and certificate number.

- An Excel file of the search results can be downloaded listing all the certified products.
- By clicking on the certificate number, useful technical details of the certificate are displayed, including measured and certified performance characteristics and the intended uses for each certified product.
- The official certificate can also be downloaded.