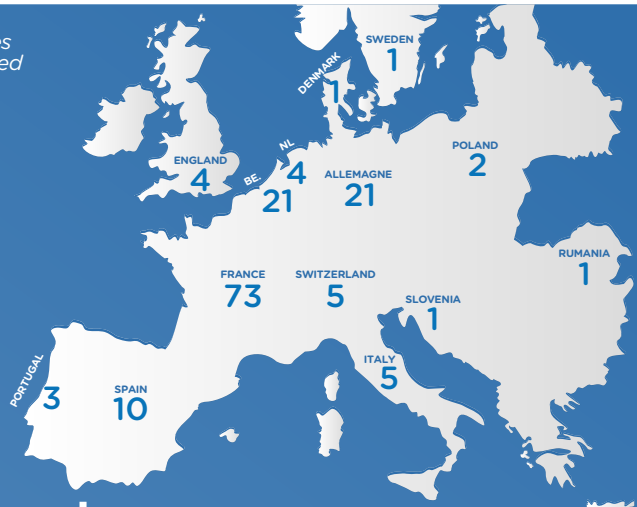


Breakout of the 151 factories manufacturing Acermi-certified insulation products.



## Acermi and international markets

**Unquestioningly recognized and respected in the French market for its dynamic approach and consistency, ACERMI certification is universally acclaimed by all insulation industry stakeholders, including many international manufacturers also convinced of its benefits. Its demanding requirements and the level of guarantee provided have established it as a benchmark widely recognized beyond the borders of France.**

In 2008, around 400 products carried the ACERMI certification mark; the figure for 2015 was 749, representing a 10% increase on 2014. This rate of progress alone underlines the success of this certification mark. Its dynamic approach and constant development have expanded the scope of this certification to include new products to the point where it is now applicable to every type of insulation material, from biosourced products to vacuum insulation products and structurally insulated panels.

ACERMI certification boasts two important strengths. Firstly, it is based wherever possible on European certification, and secondly, it has the ability, where necessary, to create its own reliable benchmarks for product assessment. It therefore involves the application of demanding requirements that are significantly higher than those applied by CE marking, because its award is not simply a declaration of performance, but a thorough verification by a technically respected and independent third party.

Better still, when it drives innovation by creating benchmarks for emerging pro-

ducts, ACERMI drafts them in the spirit of European regulations and standards, and then promotes them beyond its own national borders as a proactive contributor to community development.

ACERMI is also able to rely on manufacturers, many of whom hold foreign certification marks, but see ACERMI certification as effective, reliable and adding value. The map clearly shows how this dynamic influence extends to other countries: of the 144 production plants certified in 2015, no fewer than 64 were in other European countries. Clearly, they see ACERMI certification as a profitable investment that is relevant for them to promote well beyond the borders of France.

## ACERMI certification + Tax Credit eligibility

**All ACERMI-certified insulation materials delivering thermal resistance compliant with the technical criteria defined by the CITE energy performance upgrade scheme for opaque wall insulation are eligible for this tax credit.**

This eligibility is the outcome of changes made in the 2016 French Finance Act regarding installations eligible for the energy transition tax credit (Crédit d'Impôt Transition Énergétique or CITE). These changes are contained in the ministerial order of December 30, 2015, which effectively modified Article 18b of Annex IV to the French General Tax Code (CGI).

This specifically states that from now on, bills issued by construction professionals must make reference to the relevant performance standards and technical criteria in order for customers to benefit from the CITE.

So in terms of thermal insulation for opaque walls, it is important that the thermal resistance (R-value) shown on the bill is established in accordance with the NF EN 12664, NF EN 12667 or NF EN 12939 standards for non-reflective insulation materials, or in accordance with the NF EN 16012 standard for reflective insulation materials.

The ACERMI certification benchmarks explicitly refer to these standards governing the assessment of insulation material thermal resistance.

## ABOUT ACERMI

ACERMI quality certification is granted by the Association pour la CERTification des Matériaux Isolants, a non-profit organization (association loi 1901) formed in 1983 by the CSTB and LNE.

It enables all insulation professionals to demonstrate the performance of their insulation products to achieve certification on completion of testing, inspection and auditing.



# ➤ Acermi and businesses

## A RESOURCE LIKE NO OTHER The ACERMI search engine

**For contractors, the Acermi search engine is the fastest way of identifying the best product for a particular application, and accessing all the technical and quality assurance guarantees required. UMPI-FFB Chairman Bruno Garabos lists the benefits...**



Bruno Garabos

Chairman of the UMPI (the Plastering and Insulation Trade Association of the French Building Federation) and former Chairman of the FFB for the Gironde region, Bruno Garabos is first and foremost head of a company based in Florac, which specializes in the hospitality industry and employs 40 people. «Our member companies have been fitting insulation for a long time now, and individual plasterers are increasingly required to do so. Recently introduced regulations have given particular prominence to this construction component, so to respond correctly to all the thermal, acoustic and fire resistance requirements, it's absolutely essential to fully understand the technical characteristics of the materials we are required to install. Added to that, the requirements regarding the use or otherwise of a vapor barrier in conjunction with insulation and the different levels of performance delivered by different thicknesses of insulation mean that manufacturers' ranges are expanding all the time.»

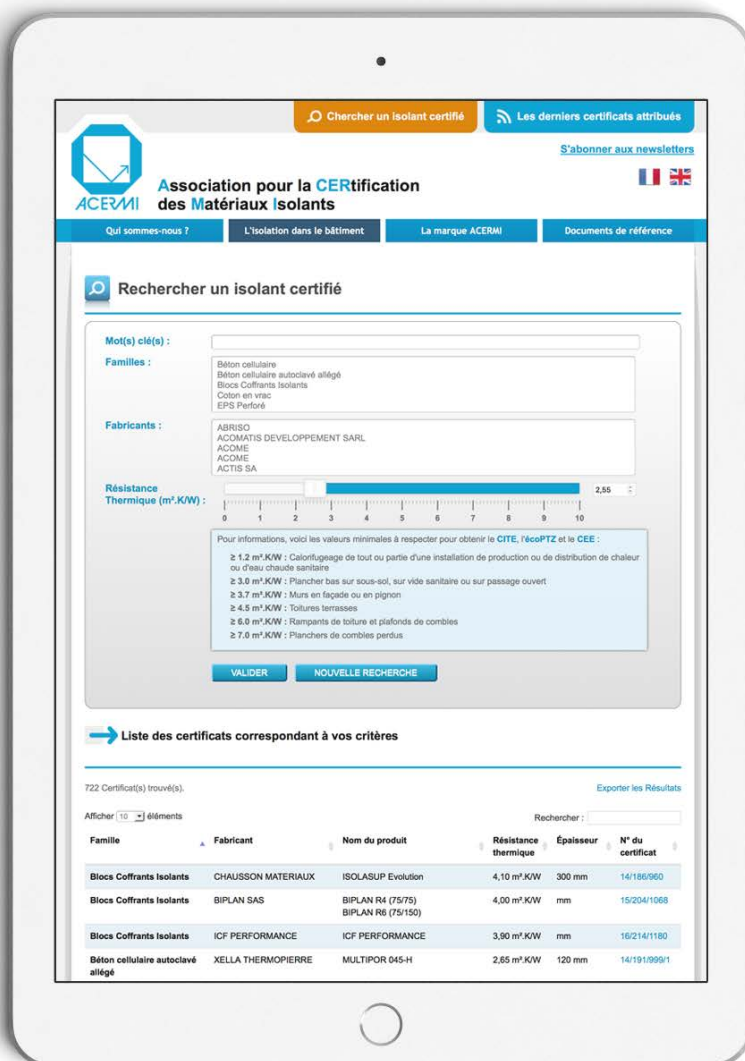
So contractors must therefore be certain of their ability to identify the right product for the project. And given the diversity of products on offer, it is crucial to check that the product comes with the necessary assurances of regulatory compliance. «It's something I often remind people of when I visit UMPI members,» emphasizes Bruno Garabos: «Legal assurance is just as important as technical assurance. And it's my opinion that the safest way of finding such a product is to make sure that it has Acermi certification. Which is why the Acermi search engine is so useful; in fact, it's top of the list of professional resources I recommend to my colleagues. The technical pages of the UMPI website have a direct link to the Acermi website.»

Contractors often receive requests expressed solely in terms of thermal resistance, so they have to be able to find out if the thickness of insulation required to deliver a particular level of performance is compatible with the project specifications. «The Acermi search engine can answer those questions very quickly,» continues Bruno Garabos. «So it's quick to

find out whether or not the specified performance requires a thickness greater than that you hold in stock. But this search engine goes a lot further than that, because in addition to product specifications, it also lists suppliers. I'm an expert in this industry, but even I have found manufacturers I'd never heard of before. Contractors' established ways of doing things, accepted routines and a perceived lack of time to do the necessary research can tend to discourage any kind of research at all. The ACERMI search engine makes the whole process much simpler. Our profession now

has a very valuable resource, even though we would like to see it improved further. So we're working on the development of a new resource that will provide valuable support for the design process by making it possible to check whether a vapor barrier is needed or not for a given insulation product, and the structure on which it should be laid.»

Bruno Garabos hopes eventually that the search engine will be extended even further to include the option to search by type of construction work.



# ➤ Manufacturers choose Acermi

## ACERMI certification: an asset for exporters

**A certification recognized for its reliability is a valuable asset in export markets. Awarded objectively and independently, ACERMI certification gives exporters the edge in winning new international markets. Here are just a few examples...**

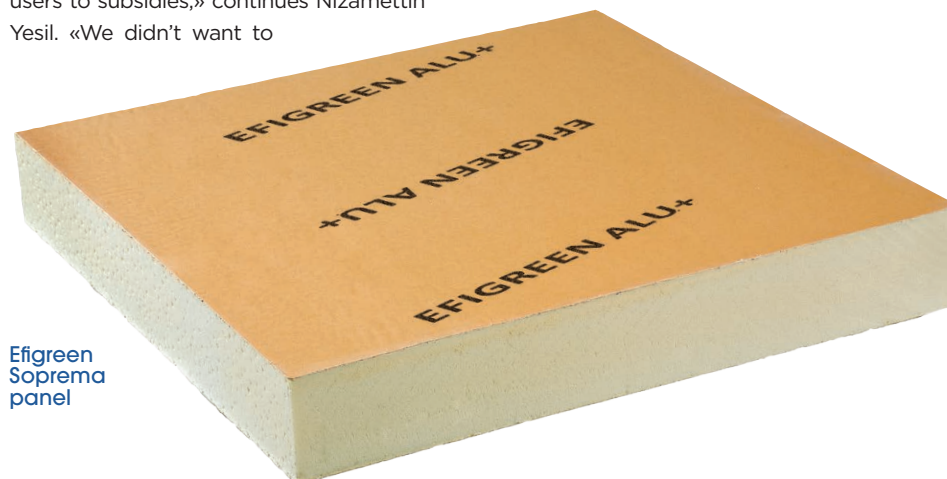
### THE CZECH ENERGY UPGRADE MARKET

Soprema is a worldwide exporter, and is perhaps best known for its Efigreen Alu + product. «When we work with French companies in export markets, we can easily promote national certification marks, like those awarded by ACERMI,» explains Export Sales Manager Nizamettin Yesil. «But it's very difficult to promote our products where they're been sold individually, rather than as one component in a packaged solution. Then we have not only to provide evidence of product quality in the form of certifications, but also get across the value of the certification concerned, which is not always instantly recognized here.»

That's particularly true in the markets of Eastern Europe, which are strongly influenced by German technical regulations. Problems with formalities, different forms of protectionism and different procedures (like certificates that are accepted only in printed form) can sometimes make it difficult for product performance to be properly recognized. «For the energy upgrade market here in the Czech Republic, we wanted to have our product approved to a standard that would entitle users to subsidies,» continues Nizamettin Yesil. «We didn't want to

engage in a costly testing campaign of our own, so the only alternative was to provide official proof. We managed to overcome that obstacle by securing recognition of ACERMI certification, whose official status worked very much in our favor. This recognition is definitely seen as a valuable measure of assurance, quality, performance and traceability. The 'institutional' aspect of ACERMI was also influential, especially as far as the Czech equivalent of the CSTB was concerned. But it has to be said that the fact that all the French documentation is in digital form makes it impossible to respond to requests for printed documentation, as was the case in the Czech Republic.»

Nizamettin  
Yesil



Efigreen  
Soprema  
panel



Xella cellular concrete

### IN ITALY, A « NOBLE » CERTIFICATION

Xella operates in Italy via its subsidiary company Xella Italia. In a competitive market, every asset is valuable when it comes to promoting product quality and real-life performance. And that's where the ACERMI certification mark becomes powerfully persuasive. «Although it's not particularly widespread in Italy, this certification mark is well known in the thermal insulation industry,» explains Emanuele Dalla Libera, Business Development Manager at Ytong. «It's synonymous with reliability, because it's a third-party certification based on tests conducted by an independent organization, and those test results can be relied upon for their accuracy.

You could say that the ACERMI mark is seen as a 'superior' kind of certification. A number of products offered in the Italian market already carry ACERMI certification, so it would have been difficult for us not to have it and display it from the point of view of credibility. It allows us to make it clear that we are up there with the leading players in this industry.»

Emanuele  
Dalla Libera



# Insulation & Uses

## THERMAL INSULATION

### Pitched roof for converted attic using role or sheet products

This solution is widely used in both new-build and renovation projects. The principle consists of insulating the roof pitch by inserting thermal insulation between and/or over the roof structure (rafters, trusses, purlins, etc.). For a better thermal performance, it is recommended to apply two cross-layers (between and over the roof structure) and ensure a good air tightness of the roof through the systematic use - wherever technically possible - of continuous vapor barrier membranes on the inside, and high-permeability vapor membranes on the outside (unventilated beneath).

This construction technique is described in the DTU 25.41, DTU 31.2 and DTU série 40 French standards (roof coverings and flexible air barriers), in the 'Cahier des Prescriptions Techniques' CPT 3560 v2 for more traditional insulation materials and in the Technical Assessments and Technical Application Documents for non-traditional insulation materials.

ACERMI certification is evidence of conformity of the used insulation product with the requirements set out in the application documents listed above.

The insulation products covered by this fact-sheet do not contribute to the mechanical stability of the structure. However, the insulation must be able to withstand the mechanical stresses imposed during installation, and especially the traction loads due its own weight. Additionally, the dimension and weight variations of the product in response to temperature and humidity must not be such as to in-

duce significant mechanical stresses on other adjacent roof components (internal vapor barrier, structural framework or internal finishing). Neither must they limit the width of the external ventilated air space. Lastly, given that the installation of an internal vapor barrier in combination with external natural ventilation of the roof is systematically recommended, the required level of resistance of insulation material to water vapor transfer does not usually impose a restriction.

French building regulation DTU 25.41 specifies the minimum ISOLE\* level suitable for all applications as follows:

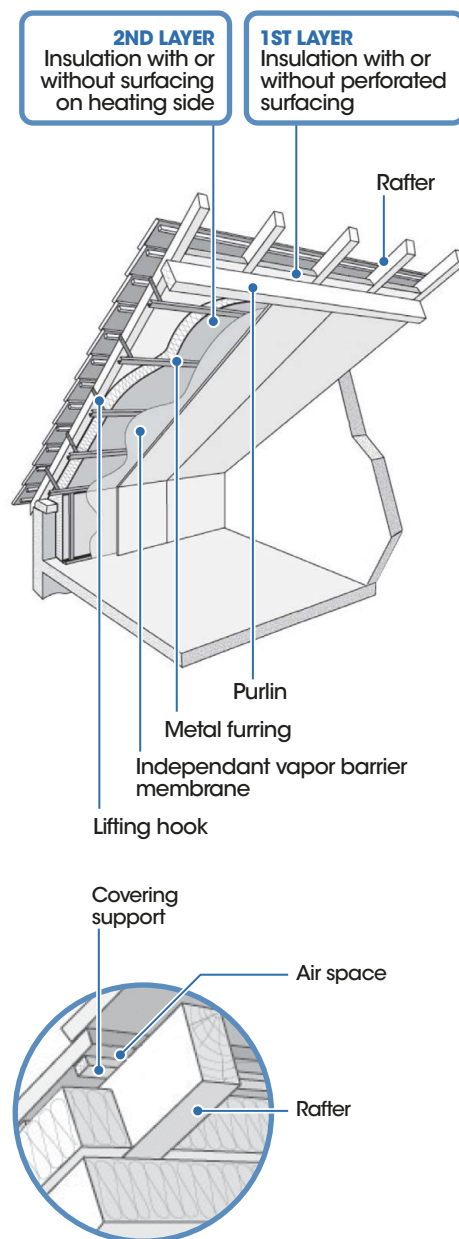
| I | S | O | L | E |
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For plastic insulation foams materials, level 2 is required for usage profiles O and L (O2 and L2).

Once the insulation product has been correctly selected, all that remains is to follow the recommendations set out in DTU 25.41 or Technical Assessments / Technical Application Documents to achieve long-term high insulation performance.

**(\*) ISOLE USAGE PROFILES:**

- I** Mechanical properties under the effects of compression
- S** Resistance to differential movements
- O** Behavior in the presence of water
- L** Mechanical properties for cohesion and bending
- E** Water vapor permeation



## DIARY DATES

OCTOBER 5 **UMPI-FFB AGM** Paris

## LATEST CERTIFICATES

<http://www.acermi.com/isolants-certifies/derniers/>

