

NAIMA R-Value Certification Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is the NAIMAⁱ R-Value Certification Program? The NAIMA R-value Certification Program is a voluntary thermal testing program for fiberglass and mineral wool batt insulation. Products carrying the certification label have been tested and meet the labeled R-value as required by the Federal Trade Administration's (FTC) "Labeling and Advertising of Home Insulation" (16 C.F.R. Part 460).

Why is NAIMA creating this program? Demonstrating that fiberglass and mineral wool products perform at the label R-Value is the foundation to our reputation in the marketplace and gives us credibility to champion policies that advance energy efficiency.

What are the FTC's thermal performance requirements for batt insulation? The FTC requires insulation to be tested by an accepted ASTM "standard test method" for evaluating thermal performance of insulation materials. Under the FTC rule and referenced ASTM standards, the average R-value of the four R-Values tested must be a minimum of 95% of the label R-value and no single sample can be less than 90% of labeled R-value.

How do companies attain certification? Participating companies conduct, at a minimum, annual testing for every plant manufacturing batt insulation. Companies test 4 products – R-13, 19, 30, and 38 unfaced batts for fiberglass insulation, and R-15, 23, 24 and 30 batts for mineral wool insulation. Testing samples are randomly collected by an independent testing agency, aged (compressed) in their packaging for between 40 and 50 days and tested in accordance with ASTM standards.

Who tests the product? Products must be tested by an independent, accredited product testing laboratory with expertise in building product testing.

Is every package that carries the label tested? No. Testing every package would be impractical as testing methods leave products in an unusable condition. Random sampling is acceptable under ASTM's *Standard Criteria for Sampling and Acceptance of Preformed Thermal Insulation Lots*.

What happens if a company falls out of certification? If a company fails to meet the program's requirements it loses the right to carry the R Value Certification label. To requalify for the certification, the company must demonstrate compliance over two consecutive testing periods.

Who is eligible to participate in the program? Only NAIMA members may participate in the labeling program. A list of our members can be found at www.insulationinstitute.org

Do other insulation products have a testing program? There are many types of insulation – cellulose, expanded polystyrene (EPS), extruded polystyrene (XPS), fiberglass, mineral wool, open and closed cell spray foam and polyisocyanurate are the most common. Only fiberglass and mineral wool batt insulation and polyisocyanurate roof insulation have certification programs validating labelled R-value.

^{i i} NAIMA is the association for North American manufacturers of fiber glass, rock wool, and slag wool insulation products. Its role is to promote energy efficiency and environmental preservation through the use of fiber glass, rock wool, and slag wool insulation, and to encourage the safe production and use of these materials.