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Marek Marzoch
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Pl. 01-572
Warsaw, Poland

Subject: Interior Insulation on FM Approved Bolted Steel Suction Tanks

Dear Mr. Marzoch:

This letter is being written in response to our recent correspondence regarding the above referenced project.

This topic has been discussed internally in the past and our conclusion has always been the same – providing insulation on the interior of a tank is not a good idea and therefore is not allowed on FM Approved tanks.

In discussing this topic, the only substantiation that we could find for allowing it was that it is less expensive. Comparing this savings to the value of the plant this tank will protect and the possible loss to FM Global should this impair the tank is insignificant. Any mechanical fastening of the insulation could puncture a liner. The presence of the insulation on the inside reduces the useable capacity in the tank. Inadequate securement of the insulation could allow it to get drawn into the fire protection piping network. Interior EPS would create a severe life safety exposure to the people installing the insulation and liner or maintaining it later. Typically, expanded polystyrene only has a compressive strength of 10 psi, consequently at 0.43 psi/ft of water height, a 20 ft or higher tank will crush it. A fire on the inside during construction or maintenance will delay the filling or refilling of the tank.

I trust you understand are reasoning as explained above. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please feel free to contact me at 781-255-4873.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey E. Gould

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