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New Study Shows Energy Codes and Architects Drive Roof Insulation Decisions Among Roofing Contractors; Code Enforcement and Inspection Less Influential
Polyiso Roof Insulation is the Preferred Product

Alexandria, VA – The Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association today released a study that highlights the impact energy codes, architects and code enforcement have in influencing roofing contractors in their decisions about roof insulation levels.

The study, conducted by the Building Codes Assistance Project (BCAP), surveyed roofing contractors in four states – Alabama, Illinois, Colorado and New York. These states were selected to capture a diversity of climates, codes and construction levels for commercial roofing insulation activity nationwide. The study assessed energy code compliance practices among roofing contractors, specifically assessing the influence of existing building codes, architects and enforcement on compliance. Findings include:

- ❖ In states such as New York, well-established codes influence compliance and drive decisions about insulation. Conversely, the absence of state-wide mandates allow for under performance of energy codes in states such as Alabama.
- ❖ Roofing contractors rely on specifications from architects about the amount of roof insulation in new and replacement construction.
- ❖ Architects make specification decisions about the amount of roof insulation based on the codes;
- ❖ Roofs are infrequently inspected by code officials for the amount of insulation;
- ❖ The potential for inspection does not influence the decision making process among roofing contractors about the amount or type of insulation to use; and
- ❖ The vast majority of surveyed participants consider polyiso as the insulation of choice for their projects.

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“Contrary to the popular belief that failure to inspect results in low or no code compliance, it appears that the mere existence of the mandated energy codes can raise overall energy performance in buildings,” said Jared Blum. “Given the increased emphasis on availability and cost of energy for the commercial building sector, this data is compelling evidence that energy codes and an informed design and construction community matter.”

“This study supports the important work of BCAP to inform state regulators about the benefits of state wide energy codes,” said David Weitz, Executive Director of BCAP. “Educating roofing contractors about the specifics of commercial building energy code requirements, and even such basics as the definition of R-value, will also help to increase compliance.”

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PIMA is the national trade organization that advances the use of polyiso insulation, one of the nation’s most widely used and cost-effective insulation products. PIMA’s membership consists of manufacturers and marketers of polyiso insulation, as well as suppliers to the industry. For more information about economic benefits of high thermal performing roofs, please visit the PIMA Web site at www.pima.org, or call 703-684-1136.

The Building Codes Assistance Project (BCAP) is a joint-initiative of the *Alliance to Save Energy*, the *American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy*, and the *Natural Resources Defense Council*. Its mission is to reduce the nation's energy consumption through the adoption, implementation, and utilization of building energy codes and standards. More information is available at www.bcap-energy.org.