

## **Marmox Products and The Code for Sustainable Homes**

Compliance to the Code for Sustainable Homes was made mandatory for from May 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 for all socially funded new built homes in England. These regulations are currently only advisory for privately built houses but are likely to become compulsory in the near future.

The code awards homes a star rating: six stars for a carbon neutral house, one star for just complying with the code. There are nine different aspects on the whole building's environmental impact that are assessed and each contributes to the overall star rating of the dwelling. This looks at the whole life cycle of house from the manufacture of the building materials, the energy use to the recycling of the components after its eventual demolition.

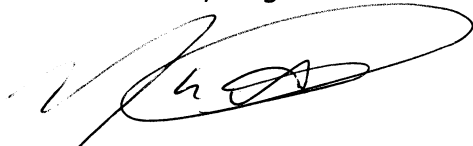
There are three categories which Marmox board has been assessed; Energy and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, Building Materials and Pollution. The category requiring the highest rating (level 6) is Energy and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Marmox is one of the most efficient thermal insulation materials available (k value and so this easily complies with this requirement.

The building materials section is concerned with issues such as the use of recycled material, natural compounds, the energy required for manufacture etc. At least three of every five construction materials should be green-guide rated grade A to D to contribute to the star rating. Marmox and all other XPS tile backer boards have been rated category E. These types of product therefore do not provide any points in this particular category.

The other section that applied to Marmox is pollution, specifically in manufacture. Marmox tile backer and insulation boards and Showerlay shower trays, have a core made of XPS polystyrene with an HFC blowing agent, Solkane 134a (*manufactured by Solvay Flour in Germany*). To conform with the code, the Global Warming Potential\* of this must be less than 5. The GWP of this blowing agent is 0.29. The zero Ozone Depleting Potential of this material is zero indicating that Marmox XPS based products contributes to the rating of the code.

*\*Global Warming Potential (GWP) is a relative measure of how effective a gas is at absorbing infra-red radiation compared to CO<sub>2</sub> (which is given a GWP of 1.0). The main greenhouse gases being emitted today are carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels, methane (from agriculture) and nitrous oxide (from agriculture). The Kyoto Protocol has set limits on six specific gases that contribute to global warming. These are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride.*

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