

THERMAFIBER, INC.
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Thermafiber Technical Bulletin

Deca-BDE

What is Deca-BDE and what is its use?

Decabromodiphenyl Ether (Deca-BDE) is one of several bromine-based flame retardants in the class of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs). Highly used in a variety of consumer and commercial products to improve fire resistance, it can be found in plastic enclosures of electronic components, commercial textiles, upholstery, bedding, and a host of small parts and coatings related to the electronics, communications and transportation industries. Related to Thermafiber® products, Deca-BDE is used as a very small component in the manufacturing of some vapor retarding and aesthetic insulation facings to add flame retardancy.

What is the concern over Deca-BDE?

PBDEs are found throughout the environment, in but not limited to, indoor and outdoor air, rivers, lakes, crops, animals, birds, fish, and people. Based on certain studies, some levels of Deca-BDE may pose health risks and can also break down into potentially harmful PBDEs. The concern over human health and the environment has led the manufacturers and importers of Deca-BDE in the U.S. to commit to discontinuing the production, importation and sale of Deca-BDE for most uses by December 31, 2012, and for all uses by the end of 2013. Some states are now introducing legislation in advance of these committed dates. The State of Oregon is the first state to enact legislation related to Deca-BDE, listed as Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 453.085(16).

How do Thermafiber products relate to ORS 453.085(16)?

Some of the insulation facings that Thermafiber, Inc. purchases for application to its products contain trace amounts of Deca-BDE. The maximum allowable limit of Deca-BDE pursuant to the statute is 0.1% on a weight basis for finished or component products. Since Thermafiber products are considered a

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finished product, the allowable level is based on the total combined weight of the insulation and facing.
All faced Thermafiber products fall below the threshold limit of 0.1% by weight.

Will All Thermafiber products continue to be available in the state of Oregon?

Yes, because all Thermafiber unfaced and faced products fall below the legislated threshold of Deca-BDE content, we will continue to provide our products in the State of Oregon or any other state that enacts similar legislation.