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### MAJOR CHANGE FOR SPECIFYING THERMAL INSULATION

The revised British Standard BS 5422:2001 Method for specifying thermal insulating materials for pipes, tanks, vessels, ductwork and equipment operating within the temperature range -40°C to +700°C has now been published. This supersedes BS5422: 1990 which is withdrawn.

BS 5422 is arguably the most important industry wide standard for determining and specifying the requirements for thermal insulation used on pipe-work and equipment.

Common methods of calculating heat transfer have recently been agreed throughout EU member states and published in BS EN ISO 12241. These harmonised calculation methods differ slightly from those previously used in BS5422. The revision of the Code of Practice was necessary to incorporate changes arising from use of the new methods.

Additionally BS 5422 now includes thicknesses of insulation that promote the environmental benefits of energy saving. Importantly, the appropriate "environmental" insulation thicknesses taken from BS 5422 and used on pipe-work will be eligible for enhanced capital allowances (ECA).

The frost protection tables have been revised to more accurately reflect UK design and operating conditions.

The standard is not prescriptive and recognises that there are many reasons why the insulation of pipes, tanks, vessels, ductwork and equipment may be required. It is therefore important that specifiers state the criteria or specific clause or reference in this standard in any specification.

Insulation thicknesses are given for a range of thermal conductivities appropriate to the usual materials used for the application; thicknesses for intermediate thermal conductivities and pipe sizes may be deduced by calculation or interpolation. For assistance in selecting an appropriate type of insulation and suitable methods of application, reference should be made to BS 5970.

In short, the most important standard applicable to the industry has changed radically. It is no exaggeration to report that not one table of insulation thicknesses within BS 5422 remains unchanged following this latest revision.

Further information about Thermal Insulation Products including a list of Trade Names may be found on the TIMSA website at [www.timsa.org.uk](http://www.timsa.org.uk).

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