



# Test Report

## Calculations of the thickness of five types of insulation product required to reduce the heat loss or heat gain from specified applications by 90%.

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For the attention of Lauren Fairley



IDENTIFICATION

NPL Quote numbers: 2015100035.  
TIMSA PO TIMSA 2015

OBJECTIVE

To calculate:  
a) The thickness of three types “insulating coatings” and one traditional glass wool insulation required to reduce the heat loss of a simple heated system, held at 180°C by 90%.  
b) The thickness of three types “insulating coatings” and one traditional PUR insulation required to reduce the heat gain of a simple cooled system, held at 10°C by 90%.

Reference PP31/2015100035 (Revision 1)

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Signed

(Authorised signatory)

Checked by: J.W.

Name:

R. WILLIAMS.

for Managing Director

## Details of the systems used for the comparisons

- 1) The overall assumptions of the calculation methodology are shown in Figure 1
- 2) The process container comprises a vertical, 5 mm thick, 2 metres high steel plate
- 3) The heat loss and heat gain calculations were carried firstly without any insulation and then insulated with the products specified in Table 1.
- 4) The internal surface temperature of this container was assumed to be the specified process temperatures – that is, the internal heat transfer processes were ignored.
- 5) The system has been assumed to be standing in still air at 20 °C for the heat loss situations and in still air at 25 °C in the heat gain situations – so natural convection processes have been assumed.
- 6) The surroundings are assumed to be much larger than the system under investigation and so the surrounding area has been approximated to a blackbody.
- 7) The temperature of the surroundings have been assumed to be the same as the ambient air temperature – that is 20 °C and 25 °C as appropriate.
- 8) The system is indoors - there is NO solar gain component.
- 9) The calculations were carried out under 1D steady-state conditions.
- 10) Both convective and radiative heat loss & gain have been included in the calculations.
- 11) All the systems have been assumed to have an external emissivity of 0.9 except for product “A” which has an emissivity of 0.85.
- 12) The convective and radiant heat transfer coefficients were calculated from the system parameters, not simply taken from tabulated values.
- 13) The comparisons made are:
  - a) Heat loss situation: Between stone wool slab – 100kg/m<sup>3</sup> and systems A, B and C when the process temperature is 180 °C with an ambient air temperature of 20 °C.
  - b) Heat gain situation: Between polyurethane / polyisocyanurate – 35kg/m<sup>3</sup> (aged) and systems A, B and C when the process temperature is 10 °C with an ambient air temperature of 25 °C.
- 14) In each case, the insulation thickness required to reduce the heat loss or heat gain to 10% of the uninsulated heat loss or heat gain has been calculated.

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Properties of the insulation systems being compared are given in Table 1

Table 1 Product data

Product name	Product type	Density	$\lambda$ W/m.K	Emissivity
A	"Insulating coating"	0.623 kg/litre	0.0698	0.85
B	"Insulating coating"	0.56 kg/litre	0.085	0.9 <sup>[1]</sup>
C	"Insulating coating" containing Aerogel	0.5 to 0.9 g/cm <sup>3</sup>	0.045	0.9 <sup>[1]</sup>
Stone wool slab – 100kg/m <sup>3</sup>	Stone wool slab.	100 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	equation <sup>[2]</sup>	0.9 <sup>[1]</sup>
polyurethane / polyisocyanurate – 35kg/m <sup>3</sup>	Rigid Polyurethane / polyisocyanurate	35 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	0.026	0.9 <sup>[1]</sup>

Note [1] These values have been assumed

Note [2] Equation  $\lambda = 0.0000006T^2 - 0.0000082T + 0.0417839$   
Where  $\lambda$  = thermal conductivity (W/m.K)  
T = mean temperature (°C)

### Description of the calculation methodology

The method used was an iterative procedure carried out manually using an EXCEL Spreadsheet. Screen shots of the one of these spreadsheet calculations are shown in Figures 2 and 3.

The Convective Heat Transfer Coefficient ( $h_c$ ) was calculated from the Nusselt Number, the thermal conductivity of air and the height of the container surface. The Nusselt Number was calculated from either Equation 1 or 2<sup>[1]</sup> using the Raleigh Number as the criteria. All the air properties were calculated at the mean air temperature which is the mean of the system surface temperature and the ambient air temperature.

$$Nu_m = 0.68 + \frac{0.67 Ra_L^{1/4}}{[1 + (0.492/Pr)^{9/16}]^{4/9}} \quad \text{For } 10^{-1} < Ra_L < 10^9 \quad \dots \text{Equation 1}$$

$$Nu_m^{1/2} = 0.825 + \frac{0.387 Ra_L^{1/6}}{[1 + (0.492/Pr)^{9/16}]^{8/27}} \quad \text{For } 10^{-1} < Ra_L < 10^{12} \quad \dots \text{Equation 2}$$

Where  $Nu_m$  = Mean Nusselt Number  
Pr = Prandtl Number  
Ra = Rayleigh Number

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The Radiation Heat Transfer Coefficient was calculated using Equation 3.

$$h_r = \sigma \cdot \epsilon \cdot F \cdot (T_1^4 - T_2^4) / (T_1 - T_2) \quad \dots \text{Equation 3}$$

Where

- $\sigma$  = Stefan – Boltzmann constant
- $\epsilon$  = emittance of the surface
- $F$  = View factor (assumed to be 1)
- $A$  = Area
- $T_1$  = Temperature of system outer surface (K)
- $T_2$  = Temperature of surroundings (K)

The calculation procedure is based on the fact that the heat transferred through the insulation will be equal to the heat lost or gained from the surface by convection and radiation (see equation 4).

$$Q = A\lambda_s \frac{(T_0 - T_3)}{L_s} = A\lambda_i \frac{T_3 - T_1}{L_i} = Ah_c (T_1 - T_2) + A h_r (T_1 - T_2) \quad \dots \text{Equation 4}$$

Where:

- $Q$  – heat flow rate  $W$
- $\lambda_s$  – Thermal conductivity of steel  $W/(m \cdot K)$
- $\lambda_i$  – Thermal conductivity of insulation  $W/(m \cdot K)$
- $h_c$  – Convective heat transfer coefficient  $W/(m^2 \cdot K)$
- $h_r$  – Radiation heat transfer coefficient  $W/(m^2 \cdot K)$
- $T_0$  – Process temperature ( $^{\circ}C$ )
- $T_3$  – Process container or interface between steel & insulation temperature ( $^{\circ}C$ )
- $L_s$  – Container wall thickness (m)
- $L_i$  – Insulation thickness (m)

Because  $\lambda_s, \lambda_i, h_c, h_r$  are temperature dependent properties there is a need to calculate the interface and surface temperatures to be able to evaluate them at the appropriate temperature. A spreadsheet was therefore set up to calculate all the relevant properties from the input data. The external surface temperature of the process container (insulated or uninsulated) and the thickness of the insulation are input manually. The iterative calculation procedure is then carried out as follows (one of the heat loss situations is shown in Figures 2 and 3 for illustration purposes):

**Calculation procedure for the uninsulated situations**

- 1) For the uninsulated situation the thickness of the insulation is set to zero
- 2) Input an estimated value for the surface temperature of the process container

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- 3) The spreadsheet uses that value to calculate all the relevant properties and then calculates the surface and interface temperatures based on that estimated value.
- 4) The manually entered surface temperature estimate is then changed until the estimated value and the calculated value are the same.
- 5) That value now gives the correct density of heat flow rate ( $W/m^2$ ) through the process container wall.

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- 6) Calculate 10% of that density of heat flow rate. This is the target value when insulated.

### Calculation procedures for the insulated situations

- 1) For the insulated situation the thickness of the insulation is estimated and manually input.
- 2) Input an estimated value for the surface temperature of the process container
- 3) The spreadsheet uses those values to calculate all the relevant properties and then calculates the surface temperature and the density of heat flow rate based on those estimated values.
- 4) The manually entered estimated insulation thickness is then changed until the density of heat flow rate equals the target value.
- 5) The manually entered surface temperature estimate is then changed until the estimated value and the calculated value are the same.
- 6) Steps 4 and 5 have to be repeated as each value effects the other.
- 7) The insulation thickness value now gives the correct density of heat flow rate ( $W/m^2$ ) through the process container wall which now equals the target value

### Calculation results

a) Process temperature Environment temperature situation	b) c) Heat LOSS	HEAT LOSS	Thermal conductivity of steel & insulations (W/m.K)	Surface temperature of steel or insulation (°C)	Temperature drop across the steel or insulation (°C)
Process temperature		180 °C			
Environmental air temperature		20 °C			
Heat loss rate from uninsulated steel vessel		2858.2 W/m <sup>2</sup>	50	179.71	159.71
Heat loss rate from steel vessel after reduction of 90%		285.82 W/m <sup>2</sup>			
Thickness of stone wool slab – 100kg/m <sup>3</sup> to reduce heat loss rate by 90%		22.4 mm	0.0487	48.21	131.79
Thickness of Product A to reduce heat loss rate by 90%		32.0 mm	0.0698	48.99	131.01
Thickness of Product B to reduce heat loss rate by 90%		39.2 mm	0.0850	48.21	131.79
Thickness of Product C to reduce heat loss rate by 90%		20.7 mm	0.0450	48.20	131.80
a) Process temperature Environment temperature situation	b) c) Heat GAIN	HEAT GAIN	Thermal conductivity of steel & insulations (W/m.K)	Surface temperature of steel or insulation (°C)	Temperature drop across the steel or insulation (°C)
Process temperature		10 °C			
Environmental air temperature		25 °C			
Heat gain rate from uninsulated steel vessel		-128.03 W/m <sup>2</sup>	50	10.01	-0.01
Heat loss rate from steel vessel after reduction of 90%		-12.80 W/m <sup>2</sup>			
Thickness of polyurethane / polyisocyanurate – 35kg/m <sup>3</sup> to reduce heat gain by 90%		26.8 mm	0.0260	23.22	-13.22
Thickness of Product A to reduce heat gain rate by 90%		71.7 mm	0.0698	23.15	-13.15
Thickness of Product B to reduce heat gain rate by 90%		87.8 mm	0.0850	23.22	-13.22
Thickness of Product C to reduce heat gain rate by 90%		46.5 mm	0.0450	23.22	-13.22

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## References

- [1] Churchill, S. W. and H. H. S. Chu: "Correlating equations for laminar and turbulent free convection from a vertical plate"

Figure 1 Overall assumptions of the calculation methodology

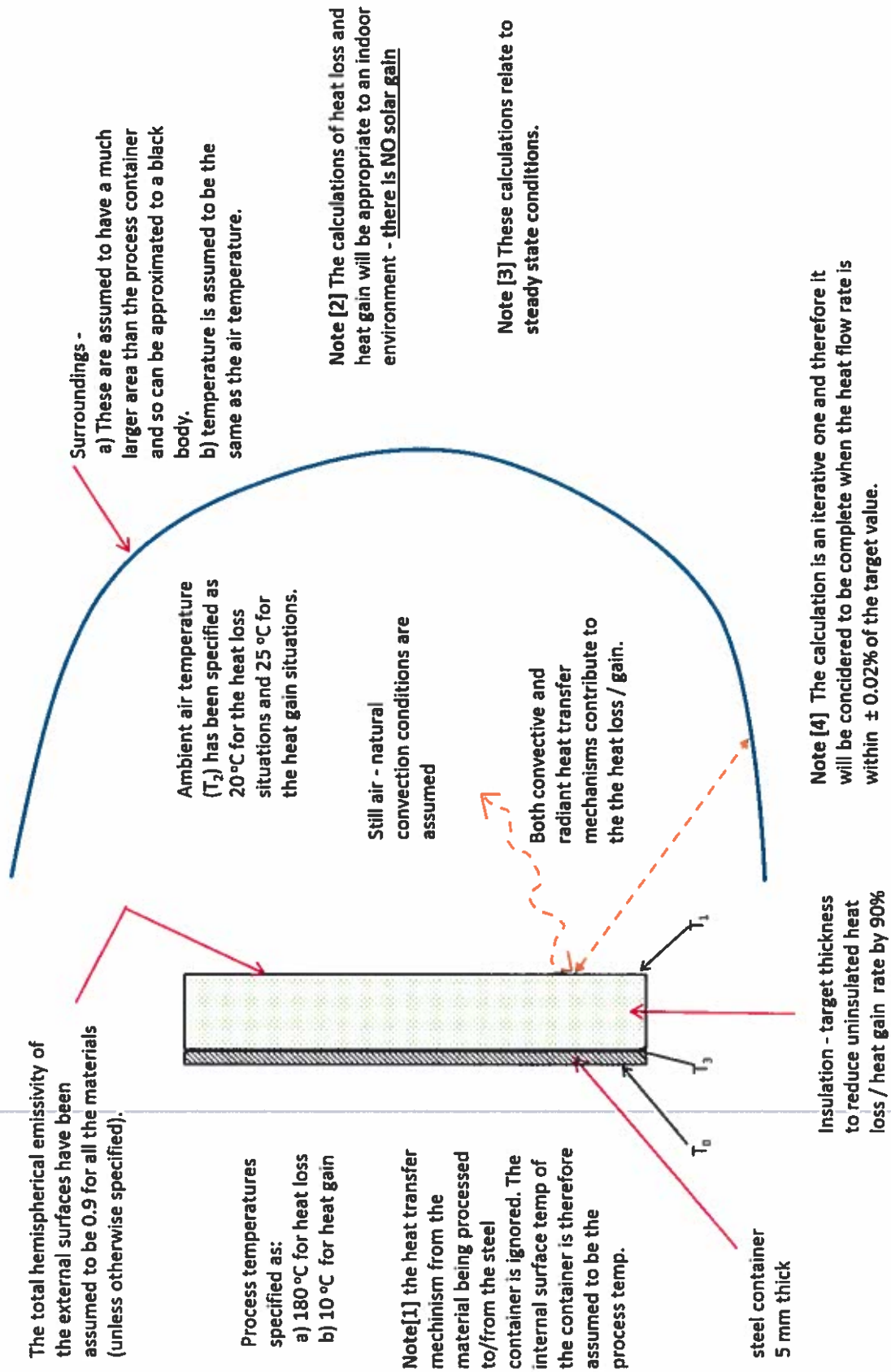


Figure 2 The spreadsheet calculation method – Part 1

Thickness of Stone wool slab insulation to reduce heat loss rate by 90%		stone wool slab – 100kg/m <sup>3</sup> Heat loss
Height of system	2 m	
Thermal conductivity of process container (steel)	50 W/m.K	
Thickness of process container	0.005 m	
Thermal resistance of process container	0.000100 m <sup>2</sup> .K/W	
Thermal conductivity of insulation (Stone wool slab)	0.048660 W/m.K	
Thickness of insulation	0.0224 m	
Thermal resistance of insulation	0.461 m <sup>2</sup> .K/W	
Emissivity of outer surface of insulation	0.9	
Surface temperature of insulation	48.21 °C	321.21 K
Process temperature (assumed to be the temperature of the internal surface of the process container)	180 °C	453 K
Mean temperature of insulation	114.105	387.105 K
External air temperature (& temp of surroundings)	20 °C	293.15 K
View factor (Area surroundings >>> area of surface) F	1	
Area of process	1 m <sup>2</sup>	
Mean Air Temp	307.18 K	
<b>Composition of gas</b>		
Gas density used @ 307.18 K	ρ	1.11067 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Gas dynamic viscosity used @ 307.18 K	μ	0.00001882 kg/(m.s)
Gas thermal conductivity used @ 307.18 K	λ	0.02688440 W/(m.K)
Gas specific heat used @ 307.18 K	c	1008.000000 J/(kg.K)
standard acceleration due to gravity	g	9.80665 m/s <sup>2</sup>
Kinematic viscosity @ 307.18 K	ν	1.6005E-05 m <sup>2</sup> /s
Volumetric thermal expansion coeff (ideal gas assumed)	β	0.003255 K <sup>-1</sup>
<b>Churchill &amp; Chu (1) Churchill &amp; Chu (2) Page 431</b>		
Greshof number @ L = 2m	Gr	2.7977E+10
Prandtl number (EN 873)	Pr	0.70653
Rayleigh number	Ra	1.97333E+10
Nusselt number for 10 <sup>4</sup> < Ra <sub>s</sub> < 10 <sup>8</sup> (laminar flow only)	Nu(1)	193.2767
Nusselt number for 10 <sup>4</sup> < Ra <sub>s</sub> < 10 <sup>8</sup> (laminar & turbulent flow)	Nu(2)	312.6258
Nusselt number used	Nu	312.6258
Stiehn-Boltzmann constant	σ	5.67E-08 W/(m <sup>2</sup> .K <sup>4</sup> )
<b>Churchill &amp; Chu (1) Churchill &amp; Chu (2) Page 431</b>		
Convective heat transfer coefficient from system	h <sub>c</sub>	4.20394 W/m <sup>2</sup> .K
Convective surface resistance of system	R <sub>c</sub>	0.237872 m <sup>2</sup> .K/W
Radiant heat transfer coefficient from system	h <sub>r</sub>	5.92884 W/m <sup>2</sup> .K
Radiant surface resistance from system	R <sub>r</sub>	0.1687 m <sup>2</sup> .K/W
Total surface resistance	R <sub>t</sub>	0.0286590 m <sup>2</sup> .K/W

10% target	285.8167 W/m <sup>2</sup>
Calc value	285.8464 W/m <sup>2</sup>
Difference	-0.01 %

Calculated value =	48.21
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251.1163581	20.11767	Calculation done in stages
0.81659753	0.816598	to ensure that the
1.81659753	1.193486	equations are calc
1.303845395	312.6258	correctly
193.276729		
Nu so. criteria =	1.00E+09	

Check of radiant heat transfer coefficient calculation  
5.92884 σ . E . (T<sub>1</sub><sup>4</sup> - T<sub>2</sub><sup>4</sup>) / F . A (Page 616 Engineering Heat Transfer)

$h_{rad} = \epsilon \sigma (T_1^2 + T_2^2)(T_1 + T_2)$

NB: EN ISO 6946 Agrees with these values at surface temp = 25 °C

Checked by: J.W.



Figure 3 The spreadsheet calculation method - Part 2

