

## GREENGUARD and Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

Due to increasing concerns over indoor air quality, a number of manufacturers of insulation products used as commercial duct lining have had their products tested and ‘certified’ by the Greenguard Environmental Institute (GEI).

The Greenguard Environmental Institute is *not* a government agency. It is a listing agency that is closely affiliated with Air Quality Sciences (AQS), a third party testing laboratory that specializes in testing construction materials and building furnishings for formaldehyde and VOC content. AQS is a highly respected laboratory, and has specialized in this type of work for over 20 years. It would be considered comparable to Underwriter Labs (UL) in their specific area of testing expertise.

Compliance testing consists of VOC emissions tests conducted in accordance with ASTM D5116 for small scale tests and ASTM D6670 for large scale tests. Products are evaluated based on acceptance criteria established by GEI which are similar but not identical to State of Washington, EPA and OSHA (for formaldehyde content). Testing is conducted at 72°F. Products that meet GEI criteria can be called “low emitting” by the manufacturer and are eligible for certification. In states where VOC and formaldehyde content is regulated or in LEEDS Building Projects, GREENGUARD certification is generally accepted as proof of compliance.

Nomaco Insulation elastomeric insulation products meet the requirements of Green Guard as outlined in their “Children and Schools” criteria, which is their most stringent listing. This would include the FlexTherm brand.

Nomaco Insulation feels that an ideal IAQ friendly product should not absorb moisture, should not contribute to corrosion, and should not support or facilitate growth of mold or bacterial. These are characteristics that the GREENGUARD program *does not evaluate*. We would also suggest (and many specifiers agree) that duct lining materials should not contain any man made mineral fibers. In addition to being Green Guard listed for low VOCs, elastomeric closed cell foam insulation products resist moisture absorption and do not contain any fibers. In addition, they meet the requirements outlined by Green Guard to be classified as mold resistant.

Nomaco Insulation elastomeric duct lining materials are truly IAQ friendly provide a level of performance that far exceeds the limited requirements of the GREENGUARD certification program.