

Glossary

Note: In the context of this report the terms, expressions and abbreviations below have the meanings attributed to them. They may have different meanings in other contexts.

Acoustic attenuation	Acoustic insulation materials work in two distinct ways to reduce unwanted noise: either by impeding the transmission of sound through an element of the structure or by the absorption of sound at the surface to reduce ambient noise levels. Acoustic attenuation is the absorption or scattering of sound by insulation materials.
Acoustic insulation	A material that has the property of resisting the transfer of sound and/or absorbing sound. Also the activity of applying acoustic insulation materials.
Batts	A discrete portion of mat in the form of rectangular pieces, generally between 1 and 3 metres long and usually supplied flat or folded.
BGI	British Gypsum-Isover Limited, a joint-venture company owned 50:50 by BPB plc and St-Gobain , the principal activity of which is the manufacture and sale of glass wool products in the UK.
Binder	Resinous material added to mineral wool during its manufacture in order to bond the fibres together; also referred to as resin binder.
Blown wool	Loose fill mineral wool insulation applied by blowing.
Business Sale Agreement	The agreement, dated 30 September 1998, under which Rockwool agreed to purchase the stone wool manufacturing business of OCBP .
Cafco	Cafco R (UK) Limited, the UK subsidiary of a Delaware-based group which is a leading distributor in the UK of fire protection products using stone wool.
Calcium silicate	Hydrated calcium silicate with added reinforcing fibres; usually a powder set into moulded form.
Cape	Cape plc, the parent company of a group of companies which, <i>inter alia</i> , is the principal manufacturer of calcium silicate in the UK and one of the leading insulation contractors in the UK.
Cellular glass	A lightweight expanded glass with small cells, produced by a foaming process; also known as foam glass.
Ceramic fibre	Fibrous insulating material, loose or fabricated into convenient forms, mainly intended for use at high temperatures. The fibres may consist of silica or an appropriate metal silicate. Alternatively they may be formed synthetically from appropriate refractory metal oxides.
Commission	The Monopolies and Mergers Commission or the Competition Commission as the context requires (see paragraph 1.1).
Compressive strength	The capacity of a material to withstand compressive forces.
Conduction	Heat transfer within a gaseous, liquid or solid material by atomic or molecular motion.

Crown	The principal brand name under which Owens Corning sells glass wool products in the UK.
Density	The mass per unit volume of an insulation material.
Devitrification	The crystallization of glass, which is normally an amorphous mixture in a meta-stable state. When crystallization takes place, the glass loses its characteristic state of clear transparency.
Dicyandiamide	A product formed by the polymerization of cyanamide in the presence of bases. It is used as an additive to the binder in the manufacture of mineral wool in order to reduce punking . Also known as cyanoguanidine and for short as 'dicy'.
Duct wrap	Insulation material for application to ducting.
Encon	Encon Group Ltd (previously Encon plc), the second largest insulation distributor in the UK; also the owner of Superglass .
ENR	Expanded nitrile rubber, a closed cell polymeric insulant which has an integral water vapour barrier. The nitrile polymer base ensures a very high degree of flexibility.
EPS	Expanded polystyrene, a rigid plastic cellular insulation material manufactured by moulding prefoamed beads of expandable polystyrene or one of its co-polymers, with an air-filled closed cellular structure.
Eurisol	The UK Mineral Wool Association, a trade association which was founded to represent the mineral wool industry with the Government, business and the public on thermal and acoustic insulation matters and on fire protection .
Fire protection	The activity of protecting buildings, other structures and their contents from fire.
Fire resistance	The ability of a material or an element of structure to prevent the spread of fire.
Foam glass	See cellular glass .
Foams	Term referring to various insulation materials where the density is reduced by the presence of numerous small cavities. See foam glass , plastic foam and phenolic foam .
Glass wool	Mineral fibre produced from molten glass. Also known as glass fibre.
Grooved slab	A slab with a deep saw-cut channel of triangular cross-section, so that it can be applied to a curved surface without fracturing the exposed face; also known as slotted slab.
H&V	Heating and ventilation.
H&V sections	Sections of insulating material in rectangular or cylindrical form suitable for use in H&V applications.
Heraklith	Heraklith AG, an Austrian-based manufacturer of stone wool .
HVAC	Heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

Icerock	Steinullarsverksmidjan H/F, an Icelandic-based manufacturer of stone wool , 28 per cent of whose shares are owned by Partek . Icerock has an agreement with OCBP to supply it with certain stone wool products for sale in the UK. Also used in this report to refer to the brand name of the products of that company.
IIDA	Independent Insulation Distributors Association, a buying group formed by a number of the smaller insulation distributors in the UK.
Industrial process	The sector of the insulation industry which comprises the supply of insulation materials for use in process industry establishments, such as power stations, oil refineries and chemical plants, and offshore exploration facilities.
Inorganic	The branch of chemistry embracing all substances other than hydrocarbons and their derivatives. In the context of the insulation industry the term is used to refer to insulation materials derived from minerals.
Intumescent	Intumescent fire protection products are sprayed or brushed on to structural members in buildings; when exposed to fire they swell up and char, so providing a protective layer for the structural member.
Kelvin	An absolute temperature scale in which the temperature intervals correspond to those of the Celsius scale and the freezing point of water is 273K.
Kitson's	Kitson's Insulation Products Ltd, an insulation distributor previously owned by Owens Corning but sold to SIG in July 1998.
Lamella products	Mineral wool products in which the predominant orientation of the fibre is perpendicular to the faces.
LGF	Lancaster Glass Fibre Ltd, a small company which produces, <i>inter alia</i> , a limited range of stone wool products. The only manufacturer of stone wool in the UK apart from OCBP and Rockwool .
Magnesia	Insulating material containing about 85 per cent by mass of light basic magnesium carbonate, the balance being substantially reinforcing fibres.
Mat	Flexible fibrous insulating material of low density that is bonded or unbonded, woven, felted, carded or needled. It is not enclosed but may be faced and is supplied in the form of rolls or batts . Mineral fibre is usually bonded. Also known as blanket.
Mattress	A flexible construction comprising an insulating material faced on one side or both sides, or totally enclosed with fabric, film, paper, wire netting, expanded metal or similar covering attached mechanically to the insulating material.
Mean temperature	The mean temperature between the hot and cold faces of an insulation installation. Used as the basis for recording thermal conductivity values of different materials at different temperatures.
Mechanical properties	When applied to insulation materials, the physical qualities of a material other than its insulation and fire protection properties, eg compressive and tensile strength .
Microporous silica	Insulation formed from synthetic amorphous silica particles and characterized by a porous structure where the pored dimension is less than the mean free path of the gas it contains.

Mineral wool	A generic term for mineral fibres of a woolly consistency, normally made from molten glass, rock or slag. The term embraces glass wool , stone wool and slag wool .
Non-combustible	Term used in the insulation industry to refer to products which have passed the criteria of BS476 Part 4 (fire test).
OCBP	Owens-Corning Building Products (UK) Limited. One of several UK subsidiaries of Owens Corning . Previously called Pilkington Insulation but acquired by Owens Corning in 1994, it owns the stone wool manufacturing business based at Queensferry which is the subject of the merger.
OEM	Original equipment manufacturer.
Organic	The branch of chemistry which embraces all compounds of carbon, with certain exceptions such as carbon oxides, metallic carbonyls and metallic carbonates. In the context of the insulation industry the term is used to refer to insulation materials derived from oil and petrochemicals, cellulose fibre, etc.
Owens Corning	A major US-based manufacturer of insulation and general building materials. Owner of OCBP . The term is also used in this report to refer to the Owens Corning group of companies as a whole.
Paroc	A brand name under which stone wool products manufactured by Partek are sold in the UK by OCBP .
Partek	Partek Oy AB, a Finnish-based manufacturer of stone wool which has an agreement with OCBP to supply it with certain stone wool products for sale in the UK. Until September 1998 the Queensferry plant of OCBP was operated under licence from Partek.
PEF	Polyethylene foam, a closed cell, flexible insulant based on polyethylene polymer, with an integral vapour barrier.
Perlite	A glassy volcanic rock.
Phenolic foam	Phenol-based material reacted with formaldehyde.
Pilkington Insulation	Pilkington Insulation Ltd, the former name of OCBP when it was owned by Pilkington plc before its sale to Owens Corning in 1994.
Pipe sections	Sections of insulating material in cylindrical form suitable for application to pipes.
PIR	Rigid polyisocyanurate, a fire resistive thermoset cellular plastic foam containing a high proportion of unconnected closed cells, filled with low conductivity gas. Produced by reacting a resin with an isocyanate in the presence of a catalyst.
Plastic foams	Foams made from organic materials .
Process sections	Sections of insulating material in cylindrical form suitable for use in industrial process applications.
PUF	Polyurethane foam.

Punking	An exothermic (releases heat) oxidation reaction which can be initiated in mineral wool in some circumstances when the temperature rises above a critical level.
PUR	Rigid polyurethane foam, a thermoset cellular plastic foam similar to PIR but used for a narrower temperature range.
PVC	Polyvinyl chloride.
Radiation	Heat transfer through electromagnetic (infra-red) radiation.
Rocksil	The principal brand name under which OCBP sells stone wool products manufactured at its Queensferry plant.
Rockwool	Rockwool Limited, the principal UK subsidiary of Rockwool International ; the leading manufacturer of stone wool in the UK. Also the principal brand name of the Rockwool International group.
Rockwool International	Rockwool International A/S, a Danish-based manufacturer of stone wool ; owner of Rockwool . The Rockwool International group is the world's leading manufacturer of stone wool .
Rolls	Mat supplied in the form of rolled cylindrical packages.
Shot	Solid particles of rock or glass that have not been elongated during the manufacture of mineral fibres from a molten mass.
SIG	SIG plc (previously Sheffield Insulations Group plc), the leading insulation distributor in the UK.
Slabs	Prefomed insulation of rectangular cross-section.
Slag wool	Mineral wool where furnace slag is the principal raw material.
St-Gobain	Cie de St-Gobain, a French-based manufacturer of insulation and other building products; the leading European supplier of glass wool and insulation products generally. Joint owner of BGI .
Stone wool	Mineral wool made from molten rock (and sometimes furnace slag). Also referred to as rock wool.
Superglass	Superglass Insulation Ltd, a UK-based manufacturer of glass wool ; owned by Encon .
Supply Agreement	The proposed agreement under which Rockwool would sell certain stone wool products to OCBP following the merger.
Tensile strength	The capacity of a material to withstand tension.
Thermal conductivity	The rate at which heat is transmitted through a material, measured in watts per square metre of surface area for a temperature gradient of one Kelvin per metre thickness (simplified to W/MK)
Thermal insulation	A material that has the property of resisting the transfer of heat. Also the activity of applying thermal insulation materials.
TIMSA	Thermal Insulation Manufacturers and Suppliers Association, a trade association within the insulation industry.
UK Insulation	UK Insulation Supplies Ltd, an insulation distributor.

Vermiculite	Naturally occurring material mainly composed of magnesium silicate.
Wired mat	Mat supplied with a wire facing.
XPS	Extruded polystyrene, a cellular plastic insulation material that has been expanded and extruded, with or without a skin, from polystyrene or one of its co-polymers and which has a closed cell structure.