



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
HEAT AND FROST INSULATORS
AND ALLIED WORKERS

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Local Union No. 2



August 2, 2022

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Erie County Technical School
Joint Operating Committee
8500 Oliver Road
Erie, PA 16509

Dear Board Members,

I write to express my concern over the plumbing system insulation for the additions and renovations project. The plumbing contractor *Scobel, Inc.* has awarded the plumbing insulation package to a non-union contractor called *Alleghany Industrial Insulation* from Bradford, PA.

It is critical for the plumbing system insulation to be installed 100% correct, and the surface temperature of the piping, ducts, and equipment be kept above the dew point to prevent costly moisture damage, prevent mold and mildew, reduce operating cost for chiller and equipment and maintain a healthy environment.

Under Quality Assurance in the specifications for this project it states the installer of the mechanical system insulation must have completed an apprenticeship or other craft training program **certified by the Department of Labor Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training.**

The installers for Alleghany **do not meet the apprenticeship completion requirement** and Alleghany has a high turnover rate of employees and is currently seeking to hire individuals.

The union contractors who bid this project all have insulation mechanics who have successfully completed a 4-year program at our state-of-the-art training center and are specifically trained for chilled and cryogenic systems.

Your help is needed to persuade Scobel, Inc. to hire a qualified union contractor and follow the specifications as written.

Respectfully,

Thomas A. Mulholland
President

**PLUMBING PIPING INSULATION
SECTION 220719**

- B. Material Test Reports: From a qualified testing agency acceptable to authorities having jurisdiction indicating, interpreting, and certifying test results for compliance of insulation materials, sealers, attachments, cements, and jackets, with requirements indicated. Include dates of tests and test methods employed.
- C. Field quality-control reports.

1.5 QUALITY ASSURANCE

- A. Installer Qualifications: Skilled mechanics who have successfully completed an apprenticeship program or another craft training program certified by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training.

- B. Surface-Burning Characteristics: For insulation and related materials, as determined by testing identical products according to ASTM E 84 by a testing agency acceptable to authorities having jurisdiction. Factory label insulation and jacket materials and adhesive, mastic, tapes, and cement material containers, with appropriate markings of applicable testing agency.

- 1. Insulation Installed Indoors: Flame-spread index of 25 or less, and smoke-developed index of 50 or less.
 - 2. Insulation Installed Outdoors: Flame-spread index of 75 or less, and smoke-developed index of 150 or less.

- C. Mockups: Before installing insulation, build mockups for each type of insulation and finish listed below to demonstrate quality of insulation application and finishes. Build mockups in the location indicated or, if not indicated, as directed by Architect. Use materials indicated for the completed Work.

- 1. Piping Mockups:
 - a. One 10-foot section of NPS 2 straight pipe.
 - b. One each of a 90-degree threaded, welded, and flanged elbow.
 - c. One each of a threaded, welded, and flanged tee fitting.
 - d. One NPS 2 or smaller valve, and one NPS 2-1/2 or larger valve.
 - e. Four support hangers including hanger shield and insert.
 - f. One threaded strainer and one flanged strainer with removable portion of insulation.
 - g. One threaded reducer and one welded reducer.
 - h. One pressure temperature tap.
 - i. One mechanical coupling.
 - 2. For each mockup, fabricate cutaway sections to allow observation of application details for insulation materials, adhesives, mastics, attachments, and jackets.
 - 3. Notify Architect seven days in advance of dates and times when mockups will be constructed.
 - 4. Obtain Architect's approval of mockups before starting insulation application.
 - 5. Approval of mockups does not constitute approval of deviations from the Contract Documents contained in mockups unless Architect specifically approves such deviations in writing.
 - 6. Maintain mockups during construction in an undisturbed condition as a standard for judging the completed Work.
 - 7. Demolish and remove mockups when directed.