

Technical Information Sheet TIS 01

SPECIFICATION

ZOTEFOAMS AZOTE® BRAND FOAM PRODUCTS

The information below is the Zotefoams plc general specification for each of the products identified, unless otherwise agreed between Zotefoams and the customer. Normally, the foam attributes and properties would be expected to fall well within the limits given in this document, but occasionally properties may approach these limits.

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This specification may be amended periodically in line with our policy of continual improvement. For critical applications or significant new projects, we would recommend that customers contact the Zotefoams Sales department before ordering.

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The AZOTE® brand products comprise a range of crosslinked, closed cell foams, physically blown using pure nitrogen gas, and sold under the trademarks Plastazote®, Evazote® and Supazote®.

The AZOTE® brand products are manufactured and sold as, essentially rectangular, sheets (sometimes known as buns or blocks) in a range of sizes, all having process skin surfaces. Talc residues or other processing aids may be present on the skin surfaces.

All information within this specification refers to the products in the form of sheets with process skins unless otherwise stated.

2. PRODUCT DESCRIPTIVE CODES

Each AZOTE® brand foam product is identified by an individual grade descriptive code based on a system that distinguishes the polymer, nominal density, variant type (if applicable) and colour in that order.

- a) **Polymer Code:**
First two letters

Plastazote® or Packazote™ Foam	Evazote® or Supazote® Foam
Polyethylene	Polyethylene Copolymers
LA, LD, MP, HD, PK	EM, EV, VA

- b) **Density Code:**
Two or three digits describing the nominal Skin/Skin density (in kg/m³)

- c) **Variant Code:**
Where special properties have been imparted to foam, a variant code is used to identify these:

Electrically Conductive	Static Dissipative	Flame Retardant
CN	SD	FR, FM

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d) **Cell Size Code:**

Where grades are made available in more than one cell size range [see Table 1 for product cell size ranges], then an additional description code is used to identify the cell size of the product:

e.g. VA35 - Base product coding (no code suggests standard cell size)
 VA35 FC - fine cell variant

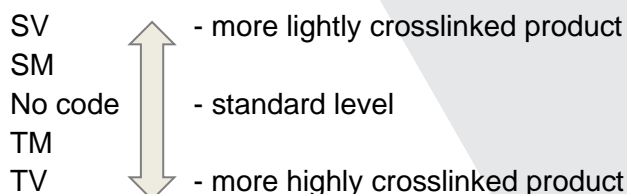
Cell size codes: Large Cell - LC
 Intermediate Cell - IC
 Medium Cell - MC
 Standard Cell - SC
 Fine Cell - FC
 Superfine Cell - SF

Cell size has no implication for density. In the example above the density of both VA35 and VA35 FC products should be equivalent (accepting normal density distribution) and only the cell dimensions will have changed.

It is important to recognise that as foam density increases then product cell size, as a rule, will increase. This is more clearly shown in Table 1.

e) **Crosslinking Code:**

Some special grades are produced at greater or lesser crosslink levels than standard. Where the degree of crosslinking is considered standard, then no reference will be made in the grade code. The additional coding descriptions for crosslinking variants are designated as follows:



f) **Colour Code:**

Full colour name in English.

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As an example of all the above:

Plastazote® LD45 FR Charcoal - AZOTE® branded LDPE foam with a nominal foam density of 45 kg/m³, flame-retardant and charcoal in colour.

3. PRODUCT TYPES

a) **Sheets, rolls, and laminated sheets:**

Sheets, rolls, and laminated sheets are classified as:

Skin/Skin (S/S)	Skin/Cell (S/C)	Cell/Cell (C/C)
Product retains both process skin surfaces.	Product has one process skin removed.	Product has both process skins removed.

Note: Any product may have had one or more edge skins removed.

b) **Untrimmed & Trimmed**

Fabricated products may then be further subdivided into:

- **Untrimmed** - Produced from full size sheets but supplied with untrimmed edges. The useable size will be subject to the tolerances in Table 6.

Note: Due to sheet alignment some loss on overall size will occur.

- **Trimmed:** Fabrications have edges trimmed to size and will be useable over the whole size supplied subject to the tolerances in Table 6.

Note: When ordering fabricated sheets and rolls it is necessary to specify the finish required using a combination of the above, e.g. untrimmed c/c, trimmed s/s, etc.

4. PRODUCT SIZE

a) **Sheets**

[Test method: BS EN ISO 1923:1995]

Sheet sizes are defined by length, width, and thickness. Nominal dimensions are the dimensions specified on the acknowledgement of order. For skin/skin sheets nominal dimensions (process skins are considered an integral part of the sheet) are the minimum dimensions and will always be met or exceeded. For cell/cell and skin/cell tolerances see “Fabricated Items” below.

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A characteristic of AZOTE® and other closed cell foams is the fact that they will reversibly change dimensions with varying temperatures and pressures (climatic conditions). The nominal dimensions acknowledged on the order will be met or exceeded when sheets are equilibrated at standard conditions. (23°C +/- 2°C, standard pressure at sea level).

Relating to Sections 4 and 6 the following applies; A skin/skin sheet showing any surface fault or defect is considered to be in specification providing that a specification cell/cell sheet can be obtained (e.g., a 2000 mm x 1000 mm x 27 mm specification cell/cell sheet shall be obtainable from nominal 2000 mm x 1000 mm x 30 mm skin/skin sheet).

b) **Fabricated Items**

[Test method: BS EN ISO 1923:1995]

Fabrication tolerances are shown in Tables 3; 4; 5; & 6.

5. PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

a) **Quality Control**

Zotefoams quality control procedures cover testing of a random sample from every batch manufactured for the following properties:

- **Density Skin/Skin** [Test method: BS EN ISO 7214:2012]

Foam densities are measured with process skins intact unless otherwise stated. The density range applies irrespective of foam sheet size or colour.

- **Cell Size** [Test method: Zotefoams Internal]

Cell size is determined by measuring the diameter of ten representative cells of a sample and reporting the average value.

- **Voids** [Test Method: Zotefoams Internal]

The method takes into account the perceived seriousness of the void in so much as small voids ($\geq 1 - \leq 2$ mm diameter) are assessed by physical count of an area of a square metre, medium sized voids ($> 2 - \leq 4$ mm diameter) are counted and then the sum of the cube of all the diameters is quoted per square metre (i.e. one 3 mm diameter void in $1 \text{ m}^2 = 27$). Large voids ($> 4 - \leq 5$ mm & > 5 mm in diameter) are physically counted over an extended area of 15 m^2 .

Void levels are summarised in categories. The category description and the void levels these represent are given in Table 2. Specifications for these properties for our standard products can be found in Table 1

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b) **General Information**

Typical values for other product characteristics such as compression and tensile properties are published on our Product Information documents with corresponding test methods utilised to measure them. These typical values represent the average values of test results carried out on random batches samples from our process.

Where appropriate special properties such as flammability or electrical conductivity will also be provided on our Product Information documents.

These documents are intended to enable comparison of the performance of our products to judge the most suitable grade and range when selecting a foam for an application.

c) **Specification Agreements**

Mechanical properties for foam are not solely defined by the density and polymer used, therefore our Product Information documents quote typical values not a specification. For technical applications where customers have specific requirements and require mechanical properties to meet a specification Zotefoams will negotiate a customer agreement with limits. These limits are set to ensure the customer needs are achieved within the product design stage and within the manufacturing process.

d) **Test Reports**

Zotefoams provides a statement of compliance that material has been manufactured in line with the specification laid out in this document on every delivery note. Where customers require batch release testing to their specific requirements provision of a Manufacturers Test Report can be included in a customer agreement.

6. PRODUCT APPEARANCE

- **Voids** *[Test Method: Zotefoams Internal]*

Void measurements are performed as described in section 5i above and void categories are given in Table 1.

- **Cell Size** *[Test method: Zotefoams Internal]*

Cell size ranges by product are given in Table 1.

- **Colour** *[Test method: Zotefoams Internal]*

The colour shall be essentially visually uniform within the foam structure of a sheet. However, variation may be found between production Lots and/or individual sheets.

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The colour appearance of product will be affected by cell size; for the same colour product, larger cell size appears darker, smaller cell size appears lighter. Perceived colour will therefore be affected by the cell size ranges in Table 1.

- **Surface Condition**

[Test method: Zotefoams Internal]

The products as manufactured will normally show an embossed pattern on one process skin surface. All process skins may occasionally have slight surface marks, indentations or discolouration. Talc residues, water, other processing aids or paint marks used by Zotefoams plc during manufacture may be present on the skin surfaces and/or edges. No guarantee is offered in relation to the skin surface.

- **Internal Condition**

[Test method: Zotefoams Internal]

The products as manufactured may show internal patterns and markings within the cellular structure. Such appearance faults may be very subtle and would not normally affect foam performance.

- **Sheet Flatness (Cell/ Cell)**

[Test method: Zotefoams Internal]

When sheets are split some waviness may occur at the edges of the sheet. The amplitude and frequency are dependent on the thickness of the split sheet, the original sheet thickness, the product density and the process history of the sheet. Typically, a 6 mm thick split from a 30 mm flat sheet would be expected to have 1.5 to 2.5 waves along its length. These would be more frequent with a 50mm thick sheet and less frequent with 15 mm splits or for trimmed sheets. This waviness would not normally affect the sheet performance and may be further alleviated by trimming of the product prior to splitting through the thickness – note that minimum size specifications detailed earlier (sections 4, 5 & 6) will apply.

- **Distortion / Bowing (skin/ skin)**

[Test method: Zotefoams Internal]

Distortion is the maximum curvature of a sheet and is the measured difference between the apparent thickness over the curvature and the actual thickness of the sheet. Distortion is measured using a standard measuring table and for all skin/skin sheets shall be no more than 20 mm. For HD grades the maximum distortion shall be no more than 30 mm.

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Table 1 - Specifications for Density; Cell Size; Void Category; & Brown Spots for each AZOTE Product

Product Reference		Sheet Density ¹ (kg/m ³)		Cell size (mm)		Void Category (See Table 2)
Grade	Variant	Min	Max	Min	Max	A – K
EM26		20	27	0.2	0.4	C
EV30	CN	28	38	0.3	0.7	C
EV45		37	49	0.2	0.6	E
EV50		41	54	0.25	0.6	C
HD30		23	33	0.25	0.7	K
HD60		43	63	0.4	0.85	K
HD80		58	87	0.4	0.85	K
HD110		85	130	0.7	1.6	K
HD115		90	125	0.7	1.6	K
LA15		14	18	0.1	0.7	C
LD15	FM	14	18	0.2	0.6	C
LD15		14	19	0.2	0.6	C
LD18		18	24	0.5	1.0	C
LD24	FM	19	25	0.15	0.45	C
LD24		19	26	0.15	0.45	C
LD24		FR	21	28	0.15	0.45
LD27		18	26	0.41	0.9	C
LD29		25	33	0.4	0.9	C
LD30	SD	25	35	0.2	0.6	F
LD32	CN	27	37	0.6	1.3	F
LD33		27	35	0.25	0.55	C
LD45	FR	37	47	0.25	0.6	C
LD45		39	49	0.25	0.6	F
LD50	CN	43	58	0.6	1.1	E
LD60		51	66	0.35	0.9	C
LD70		60	76	0.35	0.9	B
MP15	FR EB40	14	18	0.1	0.3	B
MP15		13	18	0.6	1.2	F
MP15		13	18	0.6	1.2	F
MP24		17	29	0.1	0.3	B
MP33		28	40	0.15	0.5	B
MP45		38	49	0.15	0.5	B
MT35		31	51	0.01	0.25	A
PK80		70	91	0.4	0.8	H
VA35		29	39	0.3	0.7	C

¹ Cell/cell densities are lower than the densities quoted. The difference will vary depending on grade and sheet thickness.

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Table 2 - Maximum Void Levels by Category

	$\geq 1 - \leq 2$ mm [No./m ²]	$>2 - \leq 4$ mm [$\Sigma(D)^3/m^2$] ²	$>4 - \leq 5$ mm ³ [No./15m ²]	>5 mm ⁴ [No./15m ²]
Category A	16	80	1	
Category B	50	80	1	
Category C	80	80	1	
Category D	170	80	1	
Category E	120	80	1	
Category F	50	200	1	
Category G	80	200	1	
Category H	80	200		3
Category J	500	200	1	
Category K	300	120		3

D = Void diameter in mm on any split surface.

Table 3 - Fabrication Tolerances - Splitting from Unlaminated Skin/Skin Sheets⁵

Nominal Split Thickness (mm)	HD & SD Grades Tolerance (mm)		All Other Grades Tolerance (mm)	
	Cell/Cell	Skin/Cell	Cell/Cell	Skin/Cell
≤ 5 mm	± 0.4	N/A	± 0.3	N/A
>5 to ≤ 10 mm	± 0.5	± 1.0	± 0.4	± 1.0
>10 to ≤ 15 mm	± 0.6	± 1.5	± 0.6	± 1.0
>15 to ≤ 20 mm	± 1.0	± 1.5	± 0.8	± 1.5
>20 to ≤ 30 mm	± 1.0	± 2.0	± 1.0	± 2.0
>30 to ≤ 55 mm	± 1.5	± 2.0	± 1.5	± 2.0

² Sum of the cube of the void diameters (in mm) per unit area of foam.

³ Voids greater than 5 mm are not expected to be found except in categories H and K (see note (d) below). Any sheets in other categories found containing such voids are rejected.

⁴ Holes >5 mm are allowed provided they do not affect service performance and are included in the 4-5 mm count. Single sheets cannot be checked against this standard.

⁵ Different or tighter tolerances (including maximum dimensions) may be achieved, provided they are agreed before the time of the initial order.

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Table 4 - Fabrication Tolerances - Butt Welding

Dimension	Finish	Untrimmed	Trimmed
Nominal Thickness ⁶	Skin/Skin (S/S) Skin/Cell (S/C)	Sheets will be nominal minimum	Sheets will be nominal minimum, but there may be steps up to 1 mm maximum at each weld.
	Cell/Cell (C/C)	Thickness of the rolls is as s/c split sheet tolerances (see Table 3)	Thickness of the rolls is as s/c split sheet tolerances (see Table 3)
Nominal Width ^e	Skin/skin (S/S) Skin/cell (S/C) Cell/cell (C/C)	Sheet widths will be nominal minimum, but each weld will be lined up on one side with a maximum error of 6 mm	Sheet width will be greater than the (nominal trimmed width – 5 mm), but each weld will be lined up on one side with a maximum error of 6 mm
Nominal Length ^e	Sheets [up to 3m] Rolls [up to 15m]	Nominal length will be met or exceeded ^e .	

Note: Customer should specify Trimmed or Untrimmed, skin/skin, cell/cell or skin/cell when ordering, e.g. Trimmed s/s, Untrimmed s/c. For sizes and tolerances outside those specified please consult the Zotefoams Sales Team.

⁶ For standard tolerances, no maximum size specified.

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Table 5 - Fabrication Tolerances – Lamination thickness of Skin/Skin; Skin/Cell; & Cell/Cell Products

Skin/Skin (S/S) and Skin/Cell (S/C)							
Nominal Thickness (mm)	LD18 & LD29		HD & SD Grades			All Other Grades	
	Min (mm)	Max (mm)	Nominal Thickness (mm)	Min (mm)	Max (mm)	Min (mm)	Max (mm)
50	- 1	+ 4	< 50	- 1	+ 8	- 2	None
70	- 1	+ 4.5	< 70	- 1	+ 8	- 3	None
100	- 2	+ 9	< 100	- 2	+ 10	- 3	None
140	- 2	+ 10	< 140	- 3	+ 12	- 4	None
170	- 2	+ 10	< 170	- 3	+ 12	- 5	None
200	- 5	+ 10	< 200	- 5	+ 12	- 10	None

Cell/Cell (C/C)							
Nominal Thickness (mm)	LD18 & LD29		HD & SD Grades			All Other Grades	
	Min (mm)	Max (mm)	Nominal Thickness (mm)	Min (mm)	Max (mm)	Min (mm)	Max (mm)
50	- 1	+ 3.5	< 50	- 1	+ 5	- 4	None
70	- 2	+ 3.5	< 70	- 1	+ 5	- 5.5	None
100	- 3	+ 5.5	< 100	- 2	+ 6	- 5.5	None
140	- 4	+ 6	< 140	- 3	+ 7	- 6.5	None
170	- 5	+ 6	< 170	- 3	+ 8	- 8	None
200	- 5	+ 10	< 200	- 5	+ 10	- 10	None

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Table 6 - Fabrication Tolerances – Length and Width

Block Finish	LD18, LD29, HD, & SD Grades	All Other Grades	
	Length & Width Tolerance (minimum)	Nominal thickness (mm)	Trimmed Length & Width Tolerance (minimum)
Trimmed	Nominal – 0mm	0 mm < t < 100 mm 101 mm < t < 200 mm 201 mm < t < 300 mm	nominal – 50 mm nominal – 100 mm nominal – 150 mm
Untrimmed	Nominal – 0mm	All thicknesses up to 300 mm	nominal – 150 mm

Note: Customer should specify Trimmed or Untrimmed, skin/skin, cell/cell or skin/cell when ordering, e.g. Trimmed s/s, Untrimmed s/c, along with length, width and nominal thickness requirements. For sizes and tolerances outside those specified please consult the Zotefoams Sales Team.

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ISO 9001:2015



Safety
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ISO 45001: 2018



Environment
EMS 36270
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ZOTEFOAMS plc
675 Mitcham Road
Croydon
Surrey
CR9 3AL
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 20 8664 1600

ZOTEFOAMS inc
55 Precision
Drive Walton
Kentuck
y 41094
USA

Tel: +1 859 371

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If you would like more information
email: techsupport@zotefoams.com
or visit our website www.zotefoams.com