

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



New State Building Codes: **Minnesota**

Omaha NE – *March 31, 2015*, **Minnesota adopts new Code Requirements including new minimum insulation values for new construction residential.**

Within the newly approved code changes, effective February 14, 2015, Minnesota adopted several energy saving measures for new homes being constructed. We have noted the new requirements below, which directly relate to our High-Performance Fox Blocks ICF wall assemblies.

The first is the requirement for **all foundation and crawl space walls to meet a minimum R15 insulation.** Fox Blocks ICF walls, with a 6" core concrete exceed R23. This is easily achieved without the need to add other components or insulating products to the Fox Blocks ICF wall assembly.

The second is the above grade wall insulation requirement. **All cavity walls must be insulated with a minimum of R21 cavity insulation.** Fox Blocks ICF wall assemblies exceed R23 and provide a solid mass wall with continuous insulation, greatly exceeding this requirement. Cavity walls would also need additional insulated sheathing to meet any future continuous insulation requirements.

Every new home will also need to pass a blower door test that allows no more than 3 air changes per hour with a pressure differential of 50 Pascals. As stated in the code summary, "Per the Department of Labor and Industry, there is a contractor that performs these tests within 1.5 hours of anywhere in the state, for an average cost of \$300". The Fox Blocks mass walls include R23 insulation coupled with an air exchange rate of .05ACH. This significantly exceeds the Blower Door Test requirements in the state and surpasses Energy Star and many other wall assemblies. The Fox Blocks ICF building envelope walls are a substantial contributor to the overall performance of the home.

"The new codes will put ICF construction in position of basis of design", stated **Kelvin Doerr, P.E., Director of Engineering & Technical Services at Fox Blocks.** Mr. Doerr further stated, "Having the ability to furnish the forms, reinforced concrete and continuous insulation at one time, along with exceeding the target goal of R15 or R21, puts Fox Blocks ICF as the go to product for new residential construction moving forward. In the U.S. we are seeing much movement regarding various states, counties and cities moving to more energy efficient mandates or guidelines for new construction, putting our country in a much better position as it relates to our economy and environment."

Airlite Plastics Co. (est. 1946) is based in Omaha NE, an ISO 9000, third-generation company employing over 1100 people who produce over 1.6 billion units of plastic products and foam components per year. At the company headquarters in Omaha, Airlite has 820,000 square feet of manufacturing and warehousing under roof. The Fox Blocks brand is a latest generation ICF product line with 18 years of Airlite ICF manufacturing and engineering behind it. Airlite has complete "in house" vertical integration of plastic web extrusion - tooling to recycling to production - for all Fox Blocks ICF web components. Fox Blocks ICF is now produced at 22 locations throughout North America, including locally in Becker MN.

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