

**Testimony of  
Environment and Human Health, Inc.**

By  
Nancy Alderman, President

**Bill No. 5100**

**AN ACT CONCERNING SAFETY AND CERTIFICATION STANDARDS FOR  
THE SPRAY FOAM INSULATION INDUSTRY.**

Senator Doyle, Representative Baram and members of the General Law Committee,  
Good afternoon.

**Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI) supports Bill 5100.**

**EHHI recommends that Bill 5100 include a requirement that spray foam installers carry proper liability insurance that covers their work. We explain why.**

Because environmental groups and government agencies are asking people to tighten their houses - spray foam issues are now becoming a problem. Once the spray foam insulation is blown into a home - if the foam is installed poorly, the chemicals in the foam will outgas and make people sick. When this happens, the remedy is drastic and expensive - often causing a house to be uninhabitable.

Because Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI) has seen that there is a potential for spray foam to cause health problems - we recommend that anyone installing spray foam should carry insurance, the same way that people who drive cars are mandated to carry insurance. This would give the harmed homeowner a way to be made whole if his home is damaged by incorrectly administered spray foam.

EHHI has received calls from a number of people who have suffered from the toxic emissions from foam insulation. Most spray foam contains the chemical isocyanate, and if the foam is installed incorrectly - the isocyanate, along with the other chemicals in the foam -- will escape and outgas from the foam, and make people very sick.

From the EPA website [http://www.epa.gov/dfe/pubs/projects/spf/exposure\\_potential.html](http://www.epa.gov/dfe/pubs/projects/spf/exposure_potential.html)

**“Potential Chemical Exposures**

Chemical exposures from spray foam (SPF) may occur through a variety of ways. The work site should be restricted to persons wearing appropriate personal protective equipment. Vapors and Aerosols

- Spray application generates isocyanate vapors and aerosols.
- Research data indicate that inhalation exposures during SPF insulation will typically exceed OSHA occupational exposure limits (OELs) and require skin, eye and respiratory protection.

- Vapors and aerosols can migrate through the building if the area is not isolated and properly ventilated.

Some manufacturers estimate that it can take approximately 23-72 hours after application for the foam to fully cure for the two-component high pressure "professional" SPF system, and approximately 8 to 24 hours to cure for one component foam, typically available in 12 oz. to 24 oz. cans, but more research is needed to account for the potential variability of curing rates."

The problem is, that when spray foam is incorrectly installed, the spray foam does not cure properly and the chemicals in the foam continue to outgas. The chemicals in the foam cause eye irritations, respiratory track problems such as bronchitis and asthma, and the chemicals actual become a chemical sensitizer to the person or persons exposed.

The Yale School of Medicine's Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine has been seeing people for a number of years who have been harmed by incorrectly cured isocyanate spray foam insulation.

One phone call we received was from a man who lives in Greenwich and had to move into a rented home because his home was no longer inhabitable -- due to having isocyanate spray foam installed. He says he believes the house will have to be torn down and he does not think his insurance will pay for it.

Another caller did not have enough money to do that and he was very sick. He was living between his mother-in-law's house and his foamed house that made him sick.

Isocyanate works much like the chemical formaldehyde that was used in spray foam until it made so many people sick that it was then substituted with the chemical isocyanate. This chemical, along with a number of other chemicals in the spray foam, are now making people sick when the foam does not cure.

Because of the potential of spray foam to be installed incorrectly, EHHI is recommending that the state mandate that spray foam installers carry proper liability insurance covering their work.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nancy Alderman, President  
Environment and Human Health, Inc.  
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