

Shipping, Storage and Handling Guidelines for Extruded Polyethylene and Polypropylene Foams

Policy Statement

Nomaco, Incorporated (Nomaco) is dedicated to quality and safety and we take safe handling of our products seriously. Nomaco uses a hydrocarbon gas as a blowing agent to produce its polyethylene and polypropylene foam products, most of which dissipates prior to shipment. Residual amounts of this flammable gas may remain in the product and can accumulate at hazardous concentrations if this product is stored in confined or enclosed areas. The following precautions will help to ensure safety in the shipment, storage, and handling of our products.

Shipping Considerations

It is Nomaco's policy to transport polyethylene and polypropylene foam products using ventilated truck trailers, railcars and other transport vehicles to ensure that a flammable concentration of blowing agent does not develop inside the vehicle.

The minimum vent requirement for truck trailers are:

1. Minimum vent size is 72 square inches. We recommend Penz's Door Vent Kit P-1077A.
2. One vent should be placed high at the front end (nose) of the trailer 12" below the roof line. A second vent should be placed low at the other end of the trailer in the rear (tail) of the trailer 48" above the floor.
3. Vents must be unobstructed a minimum of 6 inches front and rear of the transport vehicle.
4. Vents must be permanently open, or must be capable of being locked or sealed in the open position. Vents must remain open during shipment.

Nomaco strongly discourages shipment in unventilated containers. In the event that it is unavoidable, Nomaco will only load such trailers given suitable prior notice. Nomaco will not load or unload unvented trailers that arrive without prior agreement. It will normally be necessary to ship less than full truck load quantities in unvented containers in order to meet our safety requirements. The empty space in unvented trailers loaded by Nomaco cannot be utilized for transporting other materials. Nomaco will not accept returned foam goods which have been shipped in unventilated transport vehicles without prior approval. Loaded trailers must be moved by driving three miles by the carrier at least once every 24 hours to prevent gas accumulation.

Opening of Vehicles Containing Foam

The following additional precautions should be taken when opening shipments of foam or other vehicles being used to store foam:

1. **All sources for ignition, including but not limited to lit tobacco products, matches, lighters, flames, sparks, and other sources of intense heat may not be carried, ignited or used within twenty (20) feet of foam products or a trailer.**
2. Verify that vehicle vents are open: If vehicle vents are not open, open the vents and allow air circulation in the vehicle for at least 10 minutes.
3. Always allow air circulation in the vehicle for at least 10 minutes after opening the vehicle doors before entering vehicles or moving foam.

Foam Handling, Packaging and Storage

Store all foam in ventilated areas. **DO NOT store foam in unventilated areas, such as trailers.** Foam parts being packaged for shipment should be placed in containers which will allow blowing agent to escape. Plastic bags should be adequately ventilated. **Never smoke or use other ignition sources within 20 feet of foam products.**

Always refer to the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for updated product and safety information. These can be found on our website at www.nomaco.com. Consult our Safe Fabrication and Reprocessing Guidelines before any reprocessing or fabrication activities.

NOTICE: Each Customer must determine whether the products discussed and the information contained in this document is appropriate for its use. NO WARRANTIES ARE GIVEN: ALL EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE ARE EXPRESSLY EXCLUDED. It is the Customer's responsibility to ensure that workplace and disposal practices are compliant with any applicable laws. Information provided as a result of testing and analysis by Nomaco is accurate as of the date shown below. Conditions of use and applicable laws may change with time and differ from one location to another, therefore this information is subject to change without notice and Nomaco assumes no liability for use of or reliance upon this document. This information does not constitute a license under any patent or other proprietary right.