



Geofoam No. 5001

Subject: Understanding ASTM Standards for Geofoam

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ASTM D6817, "Standard Specification for Rigid Cellular Polystyrene Geofoam" was published by ASTM late in 2002. This standard was developed through the ASTM consensus process with input from researchers, third party agencies, users, general interest members, and manufacturers of geotechnical products.

ASTM D6817 addresses the need for a standard which is suitable for geofoam applications. Until this standard was issued, specifiers of expanded polystyrene (EPS) products for geotechnical applications had to rely on ASTM C578, "Standard Specification for Rigid, Cellular Polystyrene Thermal Insulation." ASTM C578 provides information on thermal insulation and not geotechnical applications. Of particular note, the compressive resistance in ASTM C578 is listed at 10% deformation, a level that is clearly not suitable for most lightweight geotechnical applications.

ASTM D6817 provides the compressive resistance at 1%, 5%, and 10% deformation for EPS Geofoam. The compressive resistance at 1% deformation is often used in the design of geofoam projects. ASTM D6817 also includes the 5% and 10% compressive resistance values as some geofoam application are designed to deform under loading. These applications are sometimes referred to as compressible inclusions.

ASTM D6817 provides a standard on which to specify the performance of EPS geofoam.



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