Food Lion roaring ahead with white AP Armaflex W

What do supermarkets, retail chain stores and a college’s environmental sciences building have in common? All benefit, in their own way, from using white AP Armaflex W.

With supermarkets, it’s not just that AP Armaflex W improves the appearance of insulated pipes in exposed ceilings, giving a cleaner, less industrial look to retail interiors. In food storage and processing areas, white pipe insulation helps create and monitor a safer, more sanitary environment.

That’s why Food Lion, Publix and other grocery chains use AP Armaflex W, the 25/50-rated white Armaflex introduced in mid-2000. Because it’s not black, AP Armaflex W doesn’t require labor intensive priming to meet USDA requirements. Food Lion recently selected the white elastomeric tubes for all refrigeration lines into its casings for new stores as well as retrofit.

The USDA “Sanitation Performance Compliance Guide” calls for insulation to be painted white for any food processing or handling areas. This makes it easier to detect any mold or mildew on the lines, a concern that’s already minimized by any Armaflex insulation due to its moisture-resistant closed cell structure. Insulation also needs to be smooth and easy to clean, capable of withstanding water in washdown areas. It has to be fiber-free. When AP Armaflex W isn’t a bright enough white, it’s significantly faster and easier to paint because it doesn’t require extensive priming or multiple coats.

“This product is becoming more and more popular,” according to a spokesman at a large insulation contracting firm in the Mid-Atlantic. He cited in particular the improved visual appearance for exposed lines without the expense of painting.

The University of Maryland gained widespread attention during March Madness last year when the Terrapins won the NCAA basketball championship. Likewise, one of their campuses came to the attention of McCormick Insulation, Owings Mills, MD, when an engineer specified elastomeric insulation for exposed pipes inside the environmental sciences building. Assuming all elastomeric is black, the engineer required painting the tubes white to brighten the spaces. Some of the piping – which included chilled water, drainage pipes, condensate and other lines – also required especially large IDs. Armacell and McCormick effectively double teamed to win the job. Using AP Armaflex W enabled McCormick to get the U of M job by offering the lowest bid because of the labor savings of not having to paint. In turn, Armacell was willing and able to produce larger, special order sizes.

Another recent convert to white Armaflex is BJ’s Wholesale. Since learning more about the product at last year’s AHR Expo 2002, BJ’s has installed AP Armaflex W on all refrigeration lines in five of their stores. More are now underway.