

# BFL EU PRODUCT SERIES

# EXPANDABLE POLYSTYRENE

TECHNICAL  
LEAFLET  
October 2024



## PRODUCTS AND THEIR USES

Styropek® BFL EU products include BFL EU 295, BFL EU 395, BFL EU 397, BFL EU 397S and BFL EU 495. Styropek® BFL EU products can be used in a wide variety of applications, including blocks for panels, general insulation, below grade use, fabrication, flotation, and general packaging.

Additional applications include insulated concrete forms, thin or thick walled custom molding, and other general protective packaging. The intended uses of each product grade are outlined in Table 1.

## DESCRIPTION

Modified expandable polystyrene (EPS) / non-flammable / antifiame / auto-extinguishable containing approximately 3.45 – 3.75 wt% pentane as the blowing agent. All products are supplied as spherical beads with a bulk density of approximately 40 pcf (640 kg/m<sup>3</sup>).

Technical specifications for the BFL EU products are listed in Table 2.

Styropek® BFL EU products are compatible with many antistat, mineral oil, color additives and other additives added during processing.

Styropek® BFL EU products do not contain chlorofluorocarbons and hydrofluorocarbons compounds.

## REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

EPS foams manufactured from Styropek® BFL EU comply with several standards and international regulations depending on their application:

- \* REACH Directive for regulation of SVHC substances.
- \* RoHS (EU directives 2015/863, 2011/65/EC, 2002/95/EC, 2003/11/EC)
- \* EN 13501-1:2018.

TABLE 1: USES

Product	Intended uses
Styropek® BFL EU-295	Block molding applications, low and high densities requiring excellent fusion or with regrind
Styropek® BFL EU-395	Block molding applications, especially suited for excellent surface cut appearance
Styropek® BFL EU-397	Shape molding applications requiring modified material or high density block molding applications with excellent surface cut appearance
Styropek® BFL EU-397S	Fast cycle, short age shape molding, thick parts and ICF applications requiring modified material or high density block molding applications with excellent surface appearance
Styropek® BFL EU-495	Shape molding for thin walled applications with fast cycles and excellent surface finish requiring modified material

Note: These products can be used for other applications depending on the skill and equipment of each molder

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**TABLE 2: TECHNICAL PRODUCTS SPECIFICATIONS**

Product	Pentane, %	Resid. Monomer ppm	Bead size, mm	
Styropek® BFL EU-295	3.45 - 3.75	< 1000	0.85 - 1.70	96% min
Styropek® BFL EU-395	3.45 - 3.75	< 1000	0.6 – 1.25	97% min
Styropek® BFL EU-397	3.45 - 3.75	< 1000	0.6 – 1.25	97% min
Styropek® BFL EU-397S	3.45 - 3.75	< 1000	0.6 – 1.25	97% min
Styropek® BFL EU-495	3.45 - 3.75	< 1000	0.425 - 0.85 < 0.425	97% min 2% max



## PACKAGING AND STORAGE

Styropek® BFL EU products are packaged in Flexible Intermediate Bulk Containers of 800 kg (1,763 pounds). Plastic liners are used to maintain product shelf life by retaining the blowing agent. Styropek® BFL EU products should be stored indoor in a cool place (maximum temperature 80°F or 27 °C). In the unopened bulk containers, the typical shelf life after receipt is 120 days. The containers should be protected from rain, snow, frost, direct sunlight and mechanical damage.

Bags that have been opened should be used as soon as possible or these bags must be tightly closed (hermetically protected). Otherwise, the material could have physical or chemical issues.

## PROCESSING

Polystyrene foams made from Styropek® BFL EU products are produced in three stages: pre-expansion, intermediate aging and molding. For more details contact Sales and Technical Service.

## PRE-EXPANSION

The minimum achievable density depends on the pre-expansion equipment and technique used. In properly functioning batch preexpanders, the products Styropek® BFL EU can be processed to the bulk densities shown in Table 3. In continuous pre-expanders, they can be processed to bulk densities of 1.6 – 1.8 pcf (25 – 30 kg/m<sup>3</sup>). Care should be taken during expansion, as prolonged steam times will result in excessive loss of pentane and difficulty in achieving acceptable fusion during molding.

**TABLE 3**

Product	Typical expanded density range
Styropek® BFL EU-295	15 – 96 kg/m <sup>3</sup> - (0.94 – 5.99 pcf))
Styropek® BFL EU-395	16 – 96 kg/m <sup>3</sup> - (0.99 – 5.99 pcf)
Styropek® BFL EU-397	20 – 48 kg/m <sup>3</sup> - (1.25 – 3.01 pcf)
Styropek® BFL EU-397S	25 – 60 kg/m <sup>3</sup> - (1.56 – 3.74 pcf)
Styropek® BFL EU-495	25 – 65 kg/m <sup>3</sup> - (1.25 – 4.05 pcf)

pcf = pound per cubic foot = lb/ft<sup>3</sup>

## INTERMEDIATE AGING

The minimum recommended prepuff intermediate aging period for low density block molding of these products is 16 hours depending on density, ambient temperature, the intended use of the bead, and the molding equipment to be used. Block densities greater than 1.8 pcf (29 kg/m<sup>3</sup>) may require 24 to 48 hours intermediate aging. For shape molding applications, a minimum of 4 hours is recommended. At low to mid-range densities for block or shape molding, care should also be taken when aging products in excess of 24 to 36 hours.

## MOLDING

These products are intended for molding on autor machines. Molding can be accomplished under a wide range of conditions and densities.

## SAFETY

Styropek® BFL EU products and the finished foam products should not be exposed to ignition sources (including open flame, sparks, or electrostatic charges) during storage, processing, shipment and application.

Adequate ventilation in all processing areas must be provided to prevent hazardous accumulations of hydrocarbon vapors.

For complete safety precautions and recommendations, refer to the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and for more details contact Sales and Technical Service.

## BIOLOGICAL EFFECTS

EPS foams manufactured from Styropek® BFL EU products do not serve as food to animals nor have a nutritional value to microorganisms such as fungus and bacteria. None of its compounds are water soluble and do not emit hydro soluble substances that pollute underground water. In the dumping ground they do not decompose nor form any polluting substances.

Styropek® BFL EU products are 100% recyclable.

## CHEMICAL EFFECTS

For more Information about chemical resistance of Styropek® BFL EU products contact Sales and Technical Service. Extended exposure to ultraviolet light may cause the EPS foam to turn yellowish and the surface to become brittle.

## OBSERVATIONS

**IMPORTANT:** The information provided in this publication is based on STYROPEK, best knowledge and experience. In view of the many factors that may affect the processing and application of the products, this data does not relieve molders from the responsibility of carrying out their own tests and experiments; neither does it imply any legally binding assurance of certain properties or of suitability for a specific purpose. It is the responsibility of those to whom we supply our products to comply with any existing laws and legislation as well as proprietary rights, which STYROPEK is holder.

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