

USG Introduces Industry's First Lightweight Type X Board –

businesswire.com/news/home/20110803005965/en/USG-Introduces-Industry's-First-Lightweight-Type-X-Board---SHEETROCK-Brand-UltraLight-Panels-Firecode-X

August 3, 2011

CHICAGO--(BUSINESS WIRE)--USG Corporation (NYSE: USG), a leading building products company, is expanding its portfolio of innovative lightweight wallboard products with the introduction of SHEETROCK® Brand UltraLight Panels FIRECODE® X. This 5/8-inch panel is the industry's first lightweight type X gypsum panel and is designed for commercial and residential construction. It weighs up to 15 percent less than competitive type X board.

USG leads the industry in lightweight gypsum panel technology and is the only manufacturer to offer a portfolio of lightweight products. The company launched the industry's first lightweight gypsum board – 1/2-inch SHEETROCK® Brand UltraLight Panels – in July 2010. USG then introduced SHEETROCK® Brand UltraLight Panels FIRECODE® 30, a 5/8-inch board for nonrated and 30-minute fire-rated partitions, in June 2011. Both panels are up to 30 percent lighter than competitive panels.

“We are constantly striving to exceed our customers’ expectations and to differentiate ourselves and grow our business through innovation,” said James Metcalf, president and chief executive officer, USG Corporation. “Customers have asked the industry for lighter-weight wallboard without compromising performance, and we were the first to deliver with a 1/2-inch lightweight panel. Now, USG is proud to launch the first lightweight type X board in the industry.”

All SHEETROCK® Brand UltraLight panels are produced with proprietary technologies developed at the USG Corporate Innovation Center in Libertyville, Ill. These formulations make the products not only lighter than competitive boards but enable them to perform better. Each scores and snaps easily and has a higher strength-to-weight ratio and better sag resistance than the competition, while delivering comparable sound performance and impact resistance.

For contractors and installers, the products’ features translate to less fatigue, easier installation and greater productivity. For dealers, lighter weight increases operational efficiencies and allows shipment of more panels per truck resulting in fewer trips and lower fuel costs.

SHEETROCK® UltraLight Panels FIRECODE® X Redefine Wallboard Industry

USG's newest lightweight gypsum panel meets ASTM C1396 requirements for gypsum board, type X. Additionally, this is the first lightweight panel listed for use in more than 130 UL fire-rated assemblies. The product is designed for use in areas where a fire-rated assembly or type X gypsum board is required.

"We're pleased to offer the industry the first lightweight type X panel. Now customers have a choice of products for specific fire-rated and nonrated applications with a portfolio of SHEETROCK® UltraLight Panels," said Chris Griffin, executive vice president, Operations, USG Corporation.

"The SHEETROCK® Brand UltraLight portfolio redefines the commercial and residential wallboard markets by providing optimized lightweight systems for all applications. Our promise to our customers is to continue the expansion of lightweight products to offer the best solutions for productivity improvements and worker satisfaction," Griffin added.

SHEETROCK® Brand UltraLight Panels FIRECODE® X are being introduced in the northeastern United States. SHEETROCK® UltraLight Panels FIRECODE® 30 are sold at specialty dealers in the eastern half of the U.S., and 1/2-inch SHEETROCK® Brand UltraLight Panels can be purchased at more than 2,000 retail and specialty dealer locations in the United States and Canada.

USG Corporation is a manufacturer and distributor of high-performance building systems through its United States Gypsum Company, USG Interiors, Inc. and L&W Supply Corporation and other subsidiaries. Headquartered in Chicago, USG's worldwide operations serve the residential and nonresidential construction markets, repair and remodel construction markets, and industrial processes. USG's wall, ceiling, flooring and roofing products provide leading-edge building solutions for customers, while L&W Supply branch locations efficiently stock and deliver building materials nationwide. For additional information, visit the USG Web site at www.usg.com.