

Official Note of Rectification of the first statements made on the evening of 22 February 2024 regarding the fire that occurred in the Campanar building in Valencia.

The Official College of Industrial Technical Engineers of Valencia (COGITI Valencia) and their deputy secretary Esther Puchades would like to clarify some misconceptions arising from the statements made by the latter in relation to the building fire that occurred in Valencia on 22 February 2024:

The ventilated façade of the damaged building did not have polyurethane in either the insulation or the cladding.

While the College via their deputy secretary Esther Puchades initially indicated the presence of this insulating material and its influence on the fire's spread through the façade, within a few hours, evidence was available that the thermal insulation product present was not polyurethane, nor was there polyurethane in the façade cladding. For this reason, on 23 February, a first clarifying press release was issued that was sent early in the morning to different national and international media, and Esther Puchades declared on the regional channel A Punt and on Onda Cero that there was still uncertainty about the material used in the façade cladding and therefore it could not be assumed that it was polyurethane.

According to the evidence, the thermal insulation of the ventilated façade was comprised of mineral wool insulation and aluminum composite panels (ACM) as cladding element, negating the possibility of polyurethane's involvement in the fire and its rapid spread.

Polyurethane is an insulation material widely used in construction since many years on façades, walls, roofs, ceilings and floors in a safe, long-lasting and sustainable way. When properly installed, it helps to meet the requirements for thermal and acoustic insulation, watertightness, waterproofing, health standards and fire protection outlined in the Technical Building Code and the RSCIEI.

Therefore, the news associating the fire of the scorched building in Valencia on 22 February 2024 with polyurethane is unfounded, as polyurethane was not part of either the insulation or the cladding of the building's ventilated façade. The College regrets the confusion created and that the news about the presence of polyurethane had not been rectified everywhere, despite our initial statement. We strongly request the withdrawal of news published in the media that refers to polyurethane as the cause of the spread of the fire.

Being the will of this College to create awareness and promote knowledge of best practices and safety in construction, a conference will be held in the future on polyurethane and other materials as a means of insulation and façade cladding (it will be announced well in advance).