

How to Buy Insulated Aluminum Panels from China

A practical buyer's guide | GSM BuildTech | for Middle East & Southeast Asia projects

1. Pick the right specification

Thickness drives everything — cooling cost, freezer performance, price:

Thickness	U-value	Best for
75mm PIR	0.30	Workshops, non-AC warehouses
100mm PIR	0.22	AC warehouses & factories (Gulf standard)
150mm PIR	0.15	Chiller rooms, pharma storage
200mm PIR	0.11	Freezers, frozen storage

Specify: PIR core density $\geq 42 \text{ kg/m}^3$, aluminum alloy 3003/3004 H24 face, PVDF coating (Kynar 500 / Hylar 5000) for Gulf UV & salt air.

2. Make sure you are dealing with a real factory

Half the "manufacturers" on B2B platforms are trading companies adding 15–25%. Three questions expose it:

- Ask monthly production capacity in m^2 — a factory knows it cold.
- Ask if they can run a specific spec (0.6mm face, 42 kg/m^3 PIR, custom RAL) — a trader says "yes" to everything.
- Ask for a short video of the line running your spec — this ends the conversation fast for resellers.

3. Documents every shipment must include

- Commercial invoice, packing list, bill of lading
- Certificate of origin — CCPIT, or **Form E** for 0% ASEAN duty
- Material test reports: alloy grade, PIR density, thermal conductivity
- Fire classification (FM 4880 / EN 13501) if required
- **SABER** registration for Saudi Arabia (mandatory)
- SGS / Intertek pre-shipment inspection (recommended for first orders)

4. Pay safely

Standard terms: 30% TT deposit, 70% against B/L copy. Tie the 70% to a passing SGS inspection. Pay only to the company account. For large first orders, use an L/C.

5. Red flags — walk away if you see these

- Demands 100% payment upfront from a new supplier
- Cannot provide batch test reports or a line video
- Price far below market (\$8–27/ m^2 FOB by thickness) — usually a quality or scam risk
- Unfamiliar with SABER / Form E (not experienced in your market)
- Payment to a personal or unrelated third-country account

Ready to quote your project? Send your area (m^2), thickness and destination port — FOB price back within 24 hours.

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Prices and rates are indicative for 2026 and vary by spec, volume and market; confirm per order. © GSM BuildTech.