

Editor's Note

New Review Process Adopted for Journal

A new process for reviewing papers submitted to the *Journal* has been adopted that will shorten the review process while insuring a fair and thorough review for each paper. The process draws on the experience and expertise of all the members of the editorial board as well as the *Journal* coeditors. The abstract, keywords, and references for each paper that is submitted to the *Journal* is scanned by a coeditor (COE), and the paper is assigned to a member of the editorial board (MEB) whose expertise and interests are similar to the topic of the paper. The MEB suggests three reviewers to the COE. The COE reviews the list to insure that the same individuals are not overburdened with review requests and then forwards the names to ASTM. Coeditors or members of the editorial board are not involved in the process for papers that they submit as an author or coauthor. ASTM then sends the papers out for review.

The MEB and COE follow the progress of the paper, suggesting new reviewers if needed, and assessing the adequacy of the author's reply to the reviewer's comments. At this stage, the paper may either be accepted, rejected, or returned to the author for further revision. After a second revision by the author, the paper will either be accepted or rejected. Any appeals by authors for rejected papers will be resolved by the Chairman of the ASTM Committee on Publications who will confer with the COE and the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal*.

This new procedure has been implemented since July of 1991 and appears to be running smoothly. The communication between the COE, MEB, and ASTM has been conducted by phone or FAX whenever possible to speed up the process. However, the willingness of reviewers to conduct their reviews in a timely fashion continues to be the key to the process. ASTM and the *Journal* coeditors appreciate the contribution these reviewer's make to the quality and timely publication of the *Journal*.

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