Roofing Research and Standards Development: 3rd Volume

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Foreword

This publication, *Roofing Research and Standards Development: 3rd Volume*, contains papers presented at the symposium of the same name, held in Montreal, Canada on 19 June 1994. The symposium was sponsored by ASTM Committee D-8 on Roofing, Waterproofing, and Bituminous Materials. Thomas J. Wallace of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Philadelphia, PA and Walter J. Rossiter, Jr. of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, MD presided as symposium chairmen and are editors of the resulting publication.
Contents

Overview vii

STANDARDS DEVELOPMENTS AND TEST METHODS

Problems Prompt a Quest for High-Quality Standards—W. C. CULLEN 3

A New Analytical Method for Determining the Distribution of Components in Asphalt-Coated Felts and Shingles—C. G. CASH 15

Tear Resistance of Roofing Membranes—O. DUTT, R. M. PAROLI, W. LEI, AND H. MEBRAHTU 30

BITUMINOUS ROOFING

Three Modified Bitumen Roofing Membranes at Fort Polk: Preliminary Field Test Results—D. M. BAILEY, W. J. ROSSITER, JR., AND J. F. SEILER, JR. 45

Comparative Performance at Low Temperature of APP Modified Bituminous Membranes After Artificial and Natural Weathering—P. COGNEAU 62


Cyclic Fatigue Test as a Method for Distinguishing Between Cracking and Non-Cracking Shingles—M. M. DATTA AND R. L. CORBIN 87

SYNTHETIC MATERIALS


Enhancement of the Standard for PVC Roof Membrane Material with the Use of Mechanical and Chemical Analysis—R. M. PAROLI, O. DUTT, T. L. SMITH, AND B. J. WHELAN 116
Effect of Adhesive Thickness and Surface Cleanness on Creep-Rupture Performance of Ethylene-Propylene-Diene Terpolymer (EPDM) Peel and Lap-Shear Joints—W. J. Rossiter, Jr., J. W. Martin, J. A. Lechner, E. Embree, and J. F. Seiler, Jr. 123


Insulation

Laboratory and Roofing Exposures of Cellular Plastic Insulation to Verify a Model of Aging—M. T. Bomberg and M. K. Kumaran 151

Short-Term Moisture Gain Behavior of Perlite Rigid Insulation—R. M. Dupuis and O. Ilichevsky 168

Foam Failure in the Near-Facer Region in Polyisocyanurate Insulation Foams—G. D. Gaddy 181
Overview

The revolution that has occurred in the roofing industry around the world over the last 15 years is well known to all. Many roof systems that incorporate elastomeric, thermoplastic, and polymer-modified bituminous membranes were unheard of in the early 70s, but are commonly used today. Improvements in the chemistry and production technology have enhanced the performance of these materials and made them economically competitive for roofing. Further, the use of glass- and polyester-based fabrics has essentially replaced the traditional reinforcements for built-up roofing membranes. The industry has also seen increased use of sprayed-in-place polyurethane foam systems and the application of liquid materials for protection and maintenance. The arrival of many of the new systems has lead to innovative methods of application such as ballasting and mechanical attachment.

The revolution has been beneficial to the industry. Many of the new systems have performed well, and the variety of systems available provides consumers, including building owners, design architects, and roofing contractors with a broad choice from which a particular system may be selected for a given application. Nevertheless, not all of the new systems introduced to the market over the last 15 years have been successful. In fact, any roofing technologist can provide examples of systems that were procurable by consumers a few years ago, but are not available today. A challenge to the members of the roofing community is to provide standards that assist consumers in selecting and using systems that provide long-term satisfaction while addressing current environmental needs. Demands to improve the quality of our environment have meant that some materials and systems, considered environmentally acceptable 15 years or so ago, are not necessarily acceptable today. Consequently, the roofing industry is tasked to replace unacceptable products with a new generation of alternative materials and systems that are not detrimental to the environment.

This challenge has placed strong pressure on ASTM Committee D-8 on Roofing, Waterproofing, and Bituminous Materials to develop standards to assist in the selection, use, application, and maintenance of these systems. Committee D-8 has responded well. Many task groups are working diligently to maintain and upgrade standards previously issued and to develop the new standards that are still urgently needed. These standards include not only specifications for membrane materials, but also test methods for their characterization and practices for their application and evaluation.

The proceedings of three symposia describing the changes that have occurred and the needs for research to support development of standards have been published since the early 1980s: Single-Ply Roofing Technology, ASTM STP 790, 1982, edited by W. H. Gumpertz; Roofing Research and Standards Development, ASTM STP 959, 1986, edited by R. A. Critchell; and Roofing Research and Standards Development: 2nd Volume, ASTM STP 1088, 1990, edited by T. J. Wallace and W. J. Rossiter. But the work of Committee D-8 is far from completed, particularly in the area of providing data and conducting research to support standards development.

The members of D-8 firmly believe in the importance of having a strong technical basis for their Committee's standards. The availability of data can help accelerate the standards development process, because decisions can be made on fact and not opinion. As an example, the consensus of D-8 members is that task groups developing new standard specifications
ROOFING RESEARCH AND STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

provide data supporting recommended requirements for material properties. Without supporting data, the drafts do not proceed forward.

This symposium was conducted under the auspices of Subcommittee D08.21 on Research Needs for Roofing and Waterproofing. This symposium and the papers described in the proceedings illustrate D-8's commitment to developing standards having strong technical bases, which ultimately contributes to improved roof performance.

As in the past, this publication is dedicated to the members of ASTM Committee D-8 who give unselfishly of their time and energy to improve the performance of roofs. The editors express their sincere thanks and appreciation to those many individuals who participated in the organization and conduct of the symposium. R. A. Alumbaugh, W. C. Cullen, R. L. Fricklas, J. M. Goodwillie, D. F. Jennings, J. F. Lindberg, C. F. Mullen, R. E. Norris, D. E. Richards, G. A. Smith, T. L. Smith, and J. R. Wells were D-8 members of the steering committee. D-8 members H. Hardy Pierce and J. F. King were session chairpersons. Dorothy Savini and Pat Barr, both of ASTM, provided for symposium arrangements. Rita Hippensteel, Therese Pravitz, Shannon Wainwright, Kathy Dernoga, and other ASTM staff members directed the review and publication of the papers. Finally, special thanks are given to the authors and reviewers of the papers without whose efforts the symposium would not have been possible.

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