

So many subjects of interest to the roofing industry were discussed at two recent American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) meetings that it is not possible to mention them all in the space of this article. Instead, I will list some of the major issues and developments that emerged from these meetings.

D-8's work on standards progressing

One of the ASTM groups meeting recently was Committee D-8 on Roofing, Waterproofing and Bituminous Materials. Members of this committee came together in Nashville last December.

Several standards in various stages of development were discussed at this meeting. Changes were made to draft number 11 of the proposed new standard specification for the vulcanized rubber sheet used in single-ply roof membranes. A new draft incorporating these changes will be circulated with a letter ballot for approval. Ballots were also circulated at the December meeting for a standard specification for reinforced nitrile butadiene polyblend (NPB) sheets.

It was also stated at the meeting that new letter ballots will be circulated shortly for standards covering:

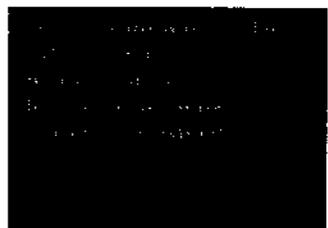
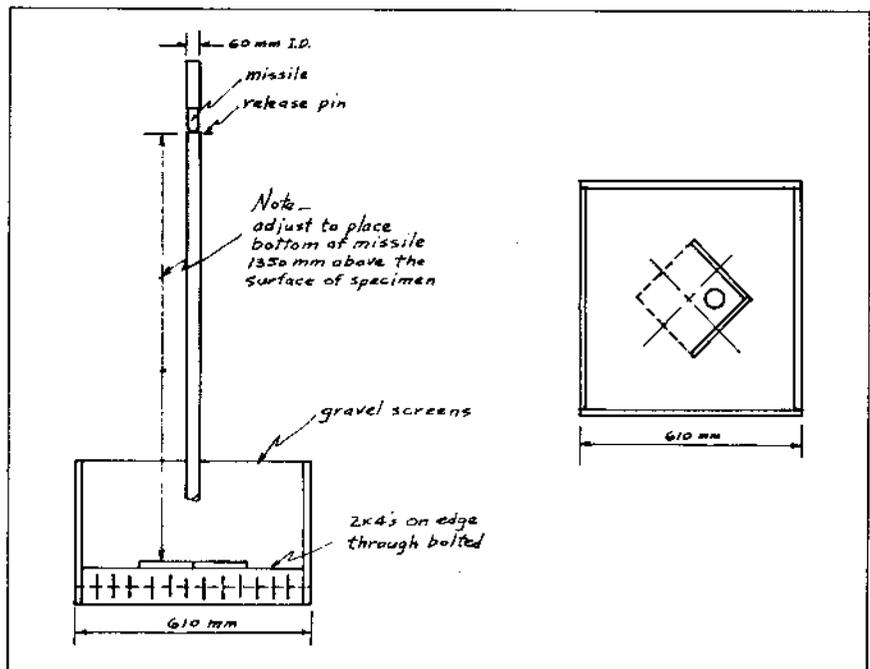
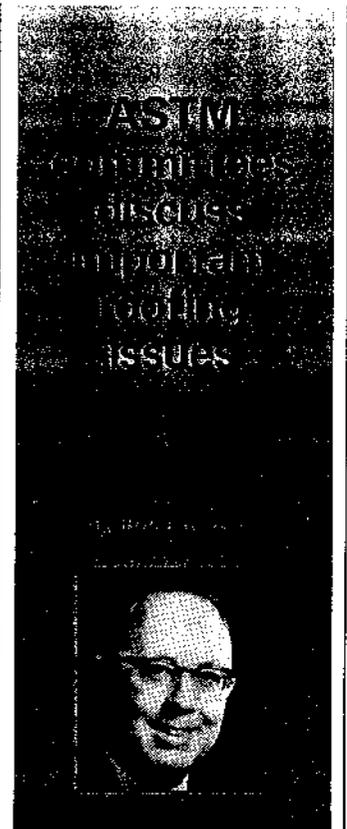
- foam polyurethane roofing;
- non-vulcanized polymeric sheets;
- uncured flashing materials;
- adhered EPDM and neoprene systems;
- ballasted EPDM systems; and
- adhered PVC systems.

Several standards covering test procedures were also balloted and discussed at the meetings. These standards cover test methods for thermal shock resistance, the adhesion between roofing materials, and measuring and classifying interruptions in adhesive continuity.

A new BUR tolerances standard was also introduced at the meeting. Committee members were balloted on the standard's criteria governing the number of plies, the base sheet sidelap or ply sidelap, the interply discontinuities, the total interply discontinuities, the average interply bitumen mass, the top bitumen mass, the mass of adhered aggregate, the number of mechanical fasteners, and the distance between fasteners. Because these criteria received a large number of negative votes, a summary of all the objections will be reviewed and discussed at the next D-8 meeting.

The Committee already completed its first standard for single-ply membranes in July 1985. This new release is designated D4434-85, Standard Specification for Poly (Vinyl Chloride) Sheet Roofing. The document will appear in the 1986 *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Volume 04.04.

D-8 members also reviewed an ad hoc committee's proposed criteria for the development of roofing materials standards. Questions yet to be resolved involve the types of materials to include in the standards, and the inclusion of test data and/or workmanship/quality data with the ballots.



It was decided that any future standards developed by E6 would not cover membrane installation.

Revisions discussed at D-8 meeting

In other work, the Committee approved revisions to two testing methods, one to evaluate the impact resistance of bituminous roofing systems, and the other to determine the softening point of asphalt and pitches (the Mettler cup and ball method). Revisions were also approved for an asphalt primer specification, an asphalt glass felt specification, a liquid-applied neoprene and chloro-sulfonated polyethylene specification and roofing term definitions.

One revision that wasn't approved was the proposed new standard specification for asphalt-saturated organic felt shingle underlayment. The new standard proposes reducing the weight of the underlayment to 8 pounds per square foot. The current standard specifies No. 15 non-perforated asphalt-saturated organic felt weighing 13 to 14 pounds. Objections to this change will be discussed further at the next meeting on disposition.

Other Committee projects discussed at the meeting included the work presently in process on performance requirements for single-ply seams and application practices for ballasted EPDM systems, and the development of a field sampling study of polymerics.

D-8 members also spent much time at the meeting discussing ASTM's present use of metric units as its primary system of measurement. When the federal government recommended the change to metric 10 years ago, ASTM D-8 voted to adopt metric units and recommended that all its standards show metric units first with English units shown in parentheses. But the industry has been slow to follow suit. During the discussion at the December meeting, it was suggested that to convert to metric units at this time could cause mass confusion in the roofing industry. A task group was appointed to

study this question and make a recommendation on whether to continue using metric units or return to using the English units as the primary units to Committee D-8 at the June 1986 meetings.

E-6 subcommittee considers roofing assemblies

Some topics of interest to roofing contractors were also discussed at the October meetings of Committee E-6 on Performance of Building Constructions. These meetings were held in Milwaukee. The Committee, through its Subcommittee E6.21 on Serviceability, has formed two task groups to study built-up and single-ply roof system assemblies employing steel decks and cementitious cast-in-place insulating fills, and one task group to study single-ply roof system assemblies employing steel decks.

Initial drafts of standards governing these assemblies were circulated and discussed at the October meeting. NRCA and its affiliates are opposed to the release of these documents. At the meeting, the steel deck representatives, as well as some of the lightweight deck manufacturers, were also cool to the documents' release.

Because of these objections, and because these documents conflict with work being done within ASTM Committee D-8, it was decided that any future standards developed by E6 would not cover membrane installation. The work of E6 will involve only the lightweight and/or steel decking and possibly the application of roof insulations.

Contractor involvement essential

To represent the interests of the contractor segment of the roofing industry and to see that ASTM develops and publishes proper standards, specifications and recommended application practices, more roofing contractors must get actively involved with the work of the ASTM committees. Contractor participation is needed to offset the dominance of the consultants and manufacturers. To increase contractor involvement, NRCA urges all its affiliates to sponsor a member to become an active participant in ASTM committee activities.