



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SPRI Announces Plans to Canvass Root Penetration Test Method as ANSI Standard**

Waltham, MA, August 2008 — SPRI, the association representing sheet membrane and component suppliers to the commercial roofing industry, and Green Roofs for Healthy Cities (GRHC) announced that they have begun developing a test method for determining penetration of roots through the waterproofing membrane in garden roof systems. Upon completion the test method will be canvassed for approval as a national standard.

In accordance with its role as an accredited canvasser with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), SPRI will distribute copies of its membrane penetration test method for review by recognized roofing experts.

SPRI and GRHC members developed this test method entitled “Procedure for Investigating Resistance to Root Penetration on Vegetative Roofs” to evaluate the ability of a root protection barrier to prevent root penetration through the waterproofing layer on low-slope (slope  $\leq 7^\circ$ ) single-ply membrane and coated roofs. It is based upon the efforts of a team at Penn State University, lead by Professor Robert Berghage, which adapted the German Landscape Research, Development and Construction Society (FLL) document “Procedure for Investigating Resistance to Root Penetration at Green-roof Sites.”

This procedure includes testing of penetration barriers including all seams edges and methods of attachment. This test standard excludes any lamination, i.e., a separate layer installed over the penetration barrier. The penetration barrier may be, but is not limited to, the waterproofing layer itself.

Any interested party may participate in the canvass process by e-mailing SPRI’s headquarters at [info@spri.org](mailto:info@spri.org) or by calling 781-647-7026.

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