



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact: Linda King, SPRI Managing Director
SPRI, 411 Waverly Oaks Road, Suite 331B
Waltham, MA 02452
Tel: 781-647-7026 Fax: 781-647-7222
E-mail: info@spri.org

SPRI's Vegetative Roof Steering Committee hard at work

Waltham, MA, March 2008 – SPRI's Vegetative Roof Steering Committee is hard at work on a number of standards, test methods and research projects that will help the roofing industry advance its understanding of garden roofs.

Last year, SPRI—the association representing sheet membrane and component suppliers to the commercial roofing industry—formed a number of Task Forces to address the emerging issues related to vegetative roof systems. As a result of expanding interest in this type of roofing system and the demand for more information, the SPRI Board approved the formation of a Vegetative Roof Steering Committee. The Committee's primary goal is to coordinate the various initiatives being addressed by SPRI. These initiatives include the compilation, publication and use of consistent definitions of garden roof components and related materials; the development of various test methods and standards for ANSI certification; and, initiation of code changes regarding the performance of these systems. Initial code efforts will target wind and fire performance. The list of initiatives will expand as new tasks are identified by SPRI members.

“This is an exciting time for the roofing industry, with new products arriving, new application methods being developed, and the constant pressure to make things better,” says SPRI Immediate Past-president Mark DeFreitas of Siplast Inc. “Along with this comes the need for new and better codes and standards.”

In September 2007, SPRI initiated the development of a wind standard for vegetative roofs under ANSI guidelines. A fire standard for garden roofs, which is a design guideline rather than a testing protocol, followed the wind document. Other SPRI activities in this area include:

- Developing definitions for specifiers and others that will help take the mystery out of garden roofs and the term's relationship to cool roofs, vegetative roofs, and energy efficient roofing.
- Developing a Root Barrier test method for ANSI certification built off the German FLL standard and adjusted for the United States.
- In reaction to a code change put into the International Code Council (ICC) stating all vegetative roof systems must undergo wind and fire testing, standards are in development to address these criteria.

- The SPRI RP-14 is the wind standard that is being built off the RP-4 ballasted wind design standard, since both systems are technically ballasted roof assemblies. There are provisions to address the small stone found in the soil media used in garden roofs.
- The SPRI VF-1 standard for fire control is designed to limit the spread of flame if a vegetative roof were to catch fire.
- SPRI is also studying the thermal performance of vegetative roofs. Oak Ridge National Laboratory will again be conducting the tests for SPRI, using the already-completed ballast study platforms.

For more information about SPRI and its activities, visit SPRI's Web site at www.spri.org.