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### **SPRI standard for retrofit roof drains earns ANSI approval**

Waltham, MA, April 2004 — America's first national standard for retrofit roof drains, developed by SPRI, was approved in early April as a national standard in accordance with protocol established by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). This new standard is designated ANSI/SPRI RD-1, 2003, "Standard for Retrofit Roof Drains."

SPRI, the association representing sheet membrane and component suppliers to the commercial roofing industry, developed this roof drain standard to fill the information void regarding retrofit drains.

John Hickman, chairman of SPRI's Standards Task Force, explains, "While the national plumbing codes have established standards for new roof drains, there have been no guidelines for what to do with an existing roof upon which retrofit drains are to be installed."

The main differences between retrofit drains and new ones, Hickman notes, stem from the need to place them where existing drains already are installed. This means that capacities must be checked and the connection to existing plumbing must be leak-free.

Retrofit drains, by their very nature, have smaller drainage diameter than the original drains, Hickman adds, because they must fit inside the existing plumbing. Assuring sufficient capacity depends upon the retrofit drain diameter, the number of drain sites and the rainfall expectations for the building location

Therefore, this new retrofit roof standard, ANSI/SPRI RD-1, features a test protocol designed to assure a leak-free connection to existing piping. Also included are methods intended to calculate sufficient drainage. An Isopluvial map (Rainfall Rate Map) of the continental US shows maximum one-hour rainfall values with a 100-year return rate ("100-year rain").

ANSI/RD-1 was officially canvassed in accordance with protocol established by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). SPRI earned its certification as an official ANSI canvasser in 1994. Since then, it has seen the acceptance of several of its design documents, including this one, as ANSI standards. The others are: "ANSI/SPRI FX-1 2001, Standard Field Test Procedures for Determining the Withdrawal Resistance of

Roofing Fasteners;” “ANSI/SPRI RP-4 2002, Wind Design Standard for Ballasted Single-Ply Roofing Systems;” and “ANSI/SPRI ES-1 2003, “Wind Design Guide for Edge Systems Used with Low-Slope Roofing Systems.” Another standard on insulation adhesives is currently under development.

For more information, visit SPRI’s web site at [www.spri.org](http://www.spri.org).

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