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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](mailto:info@spri.org)

### **SPRI to Revise and Re-canvass Wind Design Standard for Ballasted Single-Ply Roofing Systems**

Waltham, MA, August 2011 — SPRI, the association representing sheet membrane and component suppliers to the commercial roofing industry, announced that it is revising ANSI/SPRI RP-4 “Wind Design Standards for Ballasted Singly-ply Roofing Systems” and plans to canvass the document for re-approval as an American National Standard.

This revision will update the standard to comply with the current American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) document. ASCE 7-10 “Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures” was significantly revised last year. These revisions will affect every roofing professional who uses ASCE for determining wind loads on structures. Some of the revisions include new wind speed maps using a 700+ year return, reinstating Exposure Category D for hurricane-prone coastlines, as well as “simplified” procedures for determining wind pressures for buildings of all heights.

SPRI developed the ANSI/SPRI RP-4 standard as a reference for the design, specification and installation of ballasted single-ply roofing systems. It was last revised and reaffirmed in 2008.

“Ballasted roof systems are a cost effective and energy efficient roofing method for low slope roof assemblies. The concern with these types of systems has been keeping the roofing assembly in place, and loose gravel being a source of wind borne debris during high wind events.” says SPRI Technical Director Mike Ennis. RP-4 is a design standard that has been specifically developed to address these critical issues. It is based on hundreds of wind tunnel tests, filed exposure tests, and decades of experience.”

Those wishing to participate in the canvassing process should contact SPRI at [info@spri.org](mailto:info@spri.org).