



March 9, 2010

Tom Drake
Executive Director
Midwest Roofing Contractors Association
4700 W Lake
Glenview, IL 60025

Dear Mr. Drake:

SPRI, Inc. is the trade association representing the North American single ply roofing industry including the manufacturers of single ply roofing systems and related component parts. As such, articles, bulletins, and "advisory notices" including the MRCA T & R Committee's recently - circulated *Advisory on TPO* are carefully read and considered by SPRI's manufacturers and other active industry members. In view of this, SPRI must respond to that TPO advisory to minimize any misconceptions.

At the outset, SPRI is in full agreement with MRCA's T & R Committee in that special care must always be taken, and by all parties, when they are considering the treatment for areas of the roof that may be subjected to temperatures beyond the in-service limits recommended by the materials manufacturer as well as those areas where reflections from parapets, windows and such can intensify UV exposure. Such features stated in the advisory as "heat emitting equipment and heat exhausting vents or dark emissive material laid on the roof that can elevate the temperature of the covered sheet" are considerations for all membrane types, not just TPO, and are always good common roofing practice. Likewise, SPRI takes no issue with MRCA's recommending to its members, and in their consulting with manufacturers, regarding this subject. That is, they should review plans carefully where high heat and/or high UV loading likely exists.

SPRI reiterates, however, that the same requirements apply for all roofing systems, and not just TPO systems. Surely, increased UV exposure is less than optimal for these areas, just as good design, installation, and maintenance practices apply to all roofing materials and systems, TPO systems and others. In this vein, SPRI reminds MRCA and its members that in just the past five years alone, there have been well over 3 billion square feet of TPO membrane sold in North America, nearly the entirety of which having performed entirely satisfactorily.

In view of the foregoing, MRCA, without publishing any data in support, has unfairly singled out TPO membranes. The T & R Committee's advisory references a few instances of "problems" that are limited in occurrence and severity, and are not truly representative of current production and TPO membranes' proven success. Accordingly, SPRI regards the advisory, insofar as it singles out these membranes, to be irresponsible, and which regrettably fails to advance the roofing industry and the well being of all.

Thank you for assessing carefully SPRI's considered opinion in this matter, and for taking the appropriate action to "set the record straight" going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Ennis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Ennis
Technical Director