



SPRI responds to *Professional Roofing* article on TPO Membranes

Waltham, MA, September 2010 — SPRI, the association representing sheet membrane and component suppliers to the commercial roofing industry, has formally responded to an article in the August 2010 edition of *Professional Roofing Magazine* entitled “Issues with TPO Membranes.”

The *Professional Roofing* article cites several organizations that have raised concerns regarding TPO membrane performance. Author Mark S. Graham, associate executive director of technical services for the National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA), encouraged specifiers and installers of TPO membranes to be aware of the TPO performance issues referenced in the article. Specifically, these concerns refer to differences in the performance of various TPO membranes evaluated under the ASTM D08.18 standard D6878.

In a letter to Ambika Puniani Bailey, Editor of *Professional Roofing*, SPRI Technical Director Mike Ennis said SPRI understands that the ASTM task group dealing with this issue has work in progress, which is necessary to support a revised standard. “SPRI remains fully in support of increasing the performance requirements of this standard so that concerns about the viability of TPO membranes can be put to rest once and for all,” wrote Ennis. “To this end, SPRI supports ASTM’s commitment to strengthen the current standard based on sound research.”

Ennis stressed that the *Professional Roofing* article has done a service to the industry by reminding roofing decision makers that they must confirm that the specific roof system being purchased will perform with the specific building conditions that exist, regardless of the system type.

Ennis also pointed out that TPO membranes have been available and successfully performing in roofing applications since the early 1990s. Moreover, SPRI data shows

that in just the past five years alone, there have been more than 4 billion square feet of TPO membrane sold in North America, nearly the entirety of which have performed without issue.

“We at SPRI are confident that TPO roofing systems will continue to provide quality and value for many years to come,” concluded Ennis.

For more information on this issue, e-mail SPRI’s headquarters at info@spri.org or call 781-647-7026.

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