



News from SPRI

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SPRI Members Report Strong Increases in Shipments for 2004

Waltham, MA, March 2005 – Shipments of low-slope roofing membranes by SPRI member companies ended 2004 on another high note. The significant gains recorded in 2003 continued in 2004, according to statistics compiled by SPRI, the trade association representing key suppliers of flexible sheet membranes and a wide variety of other components used in commercial roofing systems.

While exact year-to-year comparisons are not available for all materials, the overall news is good, with strong growth showing in flexible membrane product categories. In fact, most materials saw double-digit increases over the previous year, which itself had been strong after a slow first quarter.

SPRI member companies report shipments for several classifications of flexible roof membranes such as: thermoset, thermoplastic, TPO thermoplastic, other thermoplastic, APP modified bitumen and SBS modified bitumen.

In 2004, TPO thermoplastic shipments were up 18% for the year. Although a year-to-year comparison was not available for the "Other Thermoplastic Category", there were significant increases posted there as well. Thermoset shipments in total were likewise up 17% over 2003 numbers. Shipments of APP modified bitumens rose 20% over those of the previous year while SBS modifieds also posted gains.

Carl Kuhl, chairman of SPRI's Statistics Committee and manager of market planning at Carlisle Syntec, Carlisle, PA, points out that SPRI's statistical reporting also bears a strong positive correlation to that of research conducted by the well-respected McGraw-Hill Construction Research and Analytics.

Furthermore, Kuhl adds, "It appears that the strong value and benefits provided by flexible membrane systems have continued to gain more and more acceptance in the marketplace," Kuhl says. "With its industry leading technology used as a basis for many environmental and energy savings models, flexible roof membranes are positioned to improve upon their industry leading position in the future."

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