Disclaimer
This standard is for use by architects, engineers, consultants, roofing contractors and owners of low slope roofing systems. This standard specifically does not address existing building drainage capacity or overflow drainage requirements and should not be used for those purposes. It is intended to provide data and guidance necessary to understand the implementation and use of retrofit roof drainage elements. Do not assume all existing buildings have code compliant drainage. SPRI, IT’S MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES DO NOT WARRANT THAT THIS STANDARD IS PROPER AND APPLICABLE UNDER ALL CONDITIONS.
Table of Contents

1 Introduction 3
2 Definitions 3
3 General Design Considerations 4
4 Materials 4
5 Testing 4
6 Strainers 5
7 Installation 5
8 Flow requirements 5

Commentary 6
1 Introduction
This standard is a reference for those that design, specify, or install retrofit roof drains which are designed for installation in existing drain plumbing on existing roofs. This standard does not include consideration of all roof storm water drainage code requirements for specific building sites. Design is dictated by local code requirements. As such, this standard shall be used in conjunction with local code and the installation instructions from the manufacturer of the specific retrofit roof drain.

2 Definitions
For the purposes of this Document, the following definitions apply:

2.1 Available Inlet Area
The combined area of all the openings in the strainer.

2.2 Drain Body
The basic drain, consisting of the drain flange and interconnected drain stem. There may be a sump between the flange and the stem.

2.3 Drain Flange
The part of the drain body that extends horizontally, in the plane of the roof. It is used for attachment of the drain to the roof deck and for clamping and sealing the roof membrane flashing plies to the drain.

2.4 Drain Flashing
The watertight connection(s) between the retrofit roof drain and the existing roofing system.

2.4.1 Clamping Ring
A component of the retrofit roof drain that creates a mechanical compression seal with the membrane flashing plies by clamping the membrane flashing plies between the clamping ring and the drain flange.

2.4.2 Heat Welding
A method for creating a watertight seal between the electric heat-welded membrane flashing plies and the drain flange.

2.4.3 Backflow Seal
The part of the retrofit roof drain that creates a watertight mechanical compression seal between the drain stem and the existing plumbing.

2.5 Drain Stem
A part of the drain that is inserted through the existing roof drain bowl for connection to the existing roof drain plumbing. The backflow seal is integral to the stem.

2.6 Effective Drain Diameter
The least cross-sectional flow area between the drain body and the outlet of the drain stem expressed as a diameter.

2.7 Retrofit Roof Drain
A factory fabricated drain, installed within an existing roof drain on an existing roof. Retrofit roof drains are installed from the roof surface and are provisional with a horizontal flashing flange for adhering membrane flashing materials, and coupling to provide a mechanical backflow compression seal to the existing plumbing. A retrofit roof drain is designed so that it may be installed without removing the existing roof drain body and plumbing.

2.8 Strainer
A component of the drain which minimizes amount of debris that enters the drain.
3 General Design Considerations

3.1 The drain manufacturer’s installation instructions shall reference the information required for proper installation of the roof drain body, backflow seal, and strainer and shall include at least the following:

3.1.1 A requirement that all retrofit roof drain installations shall meet the requirements of this standard and the requirements of the local authorities having jurisdiction. Where local codes conflict with this standard, local codes shall have priority.

3.1.2 A description of the drain body, backflow seal, and strainer and the equipment needed for proper assembly and installation.

3.1.3 Information regarding proper storage and handling of the retrofit roof drain materials prior to and during installation.

3.1.4 Description of all limitations, special installation instructions and design criteria associated with the performance of the retrofit roof drain.

3.2 The retrofit roof drain size shall be the proper size to be compatible with the existing drain. It shall provide adequate performance based on the more stringent flow requirements of either, the governing building code, or the flow requirements as noted in Section 8. See Table 1 in the Commentary of this Standard.

3.3 Roofing Watertight Seal
The bond between the roof membrane and the drain flange shall provide a watertight seal using a manufacturer’s approved water block adhesive and clamping ring, with bolts evenly cinched to membrane or by heat welding to the roofing membrane.

3.4 Backflow Seal
The backflow seal shall extend below the top of the existing drain and be long enough to create a watertight connection with the properly prepared and cleaned interconnecting portion of the existing drain system.

4 Materials
Retrofit roof drains shall be constructed of polymeric or metal materials or any combination of metals and polymeric materials that have been judged to perform satisfactorily in the rooftop environment. Manufacturers shall be contacted to determine membrane system compatibility.

5 Testing
Retrofit roof drain manufacturers shall test samples that are representative of standard production per the RF-1 test specified in this section.

5.1 Leakage
Drain bodies with backflow seals shall withstand a continuous test pressure under the equivalent of a 10-foot head of water or 4.33 lb./in.² (30 kPa) above the elevation of the backflow seals without any visible leakage after 24 hours. Laboratory test method RF-1 shall be used to test the backflow seals.
Test RF-1

Setup
Insert a representative retrofit roof drain into a vertical plumbing pipe large enough to receive the retrofit roof drain stem and the backflow seals. Seal the existing plumbing pipe below the drain stem-to-plumbing pipe juncture. Affix a vertical pipe at least 10 ft. long (3.05 m), but of any convenient diameter that can be sealed to the drain body so that water can flow through the pipe and into the seal between the plumbing and the backflow gasket.

Method
Fill the pipe with water to a height of 10 ft. (3.05 m) above the backflow seal. The test shall be conducted for a minimum of 24 hours -0/+1 hour during which the 10-foot head of water shall be maintained.

Test Results
The drain shall be acceptable if there is no visible leakage at the backflow seal.

6 Strainers
Strainers extending above the surface of the roof, shall extend not less than 4 in. (100 mm) above the surface of the roof immediately adjacent to the roof drain. To facilitate normal flow of water, dome shaped strainers shall have an available inlet area, above roof level, of not less than one and one-half times the inside cross-sectional area of the drain diameter.

7 Installation
The retrofit roof drain shall be installed in compliance with the drain manufacturer’s instructions. The roof cover tie-in shall be completed in compliance with the roof cover manufacturer’s instructions.

8 Flow requirements
Flow capacity calculations shall be based on the effective drain diameter. There shall be a sufficient drainage to accommodate a one-hour rainfall rate base on a 100-year return period or the local code, whichever number is greater. Local code requirements for overflow requirements shall be confirmed with a local building code representative. Consult Commentary Figure 1 or local weather stations for local statistics.

Where separate roof sections are drained independently, flow calculations shall be performed on each section. Each section shall have at least one drain. Drain capacities shall be determined from the applicable plumbing code. See Commentary Table 1. Pipe diameter shall be the inside diameter of the retrofitted drain stem, not the original drain diameter.
Commentary

This Commentary consists of explanatory and supplementary material designed to help designers, roofing contractors and local building authorities in applying the requirements of the preceding Standard. It is intended to create an understanding of the requirements through brief explanations of the reasoning employed in arriving at these requirements.

This Standard addresses the design of retrofit primary drains. Note that local codes may also require a secondary or overflow drain and this secondary drain may be required to have greater flow capacity than the primary drain.

Flow requirements

Flow capabilities are addressed in the Standard. There should be sufficient total cross-section area of drains to drain the entire roof area. Drain rates in Table 1 can be approximated using the following formula:

\[ A = 464 \times D^{2.66} + r \]

- \( A \) = area drained (ft.\(^2\))
- \( D \) = drain diameter (in.)
- \( r \) = rainfall rate (in./hr.)

The International Code Council/International Plumbing Code Formula (ICC/IPC) (\( Q = 0.0104 \times A \times i \)) will produce slightly different values.

- \( Q \) = Volumetric Flow Rate (gal./min.)
- \( A \) = Roof Area (ft.\(^2\))
- \( i \) = Rainfall rate (in./hr.)

Existing drain capacities frequently exceed requirements. When more drain capacity is needed, consult with the retrofit roof drain manufacturer for a compatible solution.

Alternative Drain Specification Method

Table 2 may be used to check to see if sufficient drains exist on the retrofit roof. Pipe diameter is that of the retrofitted drain, not the original drain diameter.
Table 1
Roof Areas (ft.\(^2\)) Drained vs. Drain Diameter and Rainfall Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rainfall in./hr.</th>
<th>Drain Diameter (in.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.8</td>
<td>3,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>2,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>1,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>590</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Drainage areas in Table 1: Vertical façades (walls), that can shed wind-driven rain onto roof sections, should be accounted for when determining effective roof areas. Tributary vertical façade areas are generally considered to be 50% effective—that is, the tributary wall area is reduced by 50% to determine the equivalent effective tributary roof area which is then added to the roof section drainage area to determine the total effective roof drainage area.

Table 1 may be interpolated for intermediate effective pipe diameters and rainfall rates. Drainage areas assume roof conditions will allow sufficient water flow to the drain.
Table 2

Minimum Number of Drains per Thousand Squares (100,000 ft.²)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rainfall in./hr.</th>
<th>Drain Diameter (in.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Drain sizing tables should be used with care. Roof design may not be capable of conducting rain from a very large area (ex: 40,000 ft.²), to a single drain even if the drain could handle the water flow.
One-Hour 100-year Return Rainfall Rates

Figure 1b: For Alaska

---

One-Hour 100-year Return Rainfall Rates

Figure 1c: For Hawaii

One-Hour 100-year Return Rainfall Rates
Figure 1d: For Central U.S.

One-Hour 100-year Return Rainfall Rates

Figure 1e: For Eastern U.S.

One-Hour 100-year Return Rainfall Rates
Figure 1f: For Western U.S.