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SPRI to canvass wind design and metal roofing standards

Waltham, MA, May 2018 — 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 Single-ply Roofing Systems” and plans to canvass the document for re-approval as an American National Standard. SPRI is also working with the Metal Construction Association (MCA) to canvass a new document, “Test Method for Structural Performance of Flashings Used with Metal Roof Systems,” for approval as a new American National Standard.

The revision of ANSI/SPRI RP-4 will update the standard to comply with the current American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) document, ASCE 7-16 “Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures.” These revisions will affect every roofing professional who uses ASCE for determining wind loads on structures. Additional revisions being made to RP-4 are the inclusion of new information on the performance of pavers when exposed to wind loads; guidance on the impact of the air space under the paver when using paver/pedestal systems; and, guidance on design of ballasted systems for buildings over 150’ in height.

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 2013.

Evaluating the performance of metal roof flashings

"Test Method for Structural Performance of Flashings Used with Metal Roof Systems" evaluates the structural performance of flashings associated with metal roof systems by testing the flashing and its attachment to the support material using line loads. The provisions of this test method apply to exposed flashings with a face of 4" or greater that are direct-fastened, including hem-and-cleat arrangements or other attachment methods with a face of 2" or greater. Two methods of testing are provided: 1) Face Load; and 2) Face Load and Top Load. This test method provides a standard procedure to demonstrate structural performance under uniform line load and is intended to represent the effects of uniform loading on exposed elements of the building surface.

As an organization of manufacturers and suppliers of metal products used in the building envelope, MCA recognizes that flashings are a critical component of metal roof systems. Failure of flashings can lead to metal roof failures; therefore, MCA began development of a standard to be used for testing flashings.

MCA's "Test Method for Structural Performance of Flashings Used with Metal Roof Systems" is similar to the SPRI-developed standard ANSI/SPRI/FM 4435/ES-1, "Test Standard for Edge Systems Used with Low Slope Roofing Systems." The proposed MCA standard was developed in 2017 and is being canvassed for the first time as an American National Standard.

Those wishing to participate in the canvassing process should contact SPRI at info@spri.org.