



**2015 Summer Convention**  
June 3-6, 2015  
Orange Beach, AL

**NRCA technical issues & update**

**Mark S. Graham**  
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National Roofing Contractors Association



**Material/product/system performance**



### **GAF Timberline shingle class action**

- Manufacture dates:
  - 1999-2007: Mobile, AL plant
  - 1998-2009: All other GAF plants
- Objection/exclusion date:
  - March 16, 2015
- Final approval date:
  - April 23-24, 2015
- Additional information:
  - [www.roofsettlement.com](http://www.roofsettlement.com)



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### **Hail issues**



**Material/product availability concerns**



**Revision of ASTM D312 (asphalt)**



## **Revision to ASTM D312 (asphalt)**

Published as ASTM D312-15

- Maximum heating temp.: 550 F (575 F min. FP)
- Maximum EVTs:
  - Type III (mop) 430 F
  - Type III (spreader) 455 F
  - Type IV (mop) 470 F
  - Type IV (spreader) 485 F
- Lot-specific package labeling of EVT



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## **NRCA's recommendations**

Mopping asphalt

- Seek out asphalt complying with ASTM D312-15
- Consider asking for certificates of compliance
- Do not overheat asphalt
  - 550 F maximum kettle/tanker temperature
- Apply at EVT (BUR application)
- Make field crews aware
- Contact NRCA with any questions or issues



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# Professional Roofing, February 2015

**TECH TODAY**

## An updated standard

ASTM International revises its product standard for asphalt

by Mark S. Graham

In December 2014, ASTM International revised and updated its product standard applicable to modified roofing asphalt, ASTM D312, "Standard Specification for Asphalt Used in Roofing."

**Earlier editions**  
ASTM D312 originally was developed, approved and published in 1926. In 1978, ASTM D312-78 was updated from its 1971 edition and information was added to its current format. The following table summarizes the changes to the current edition:

**ASTM D312-14**  
ASTM D312-14 was approved in 2014. It is the current edition of the standard. It includes the following changes:

- A change in asphalt's minimum flash point temperature to 475 F.
- Establishment of a 500 F maximum asphalt kettle temperature and maximum EVT when applied to the substrate.
- A requirement that asphalt suppliers provide low-specific-EVT for steep and mechanical spreader application on asphalt package labeling or bills of lading for bulk shipments.
- The establishment of a 500 F maximum kettle temperature and maximum EVT when applied to the substrate.

**ON THE WEB**  
For a link to NRCA's industry news section, log on to [www.professionroofing.net](http://www.professionroofing.net)

12 [www.professionroofing.net](http://www.professionroofing.net) FEBRUARY 2015



# Polyiso. R-value testing



### **NRCA’s 2014 polyiso. R-value testing**

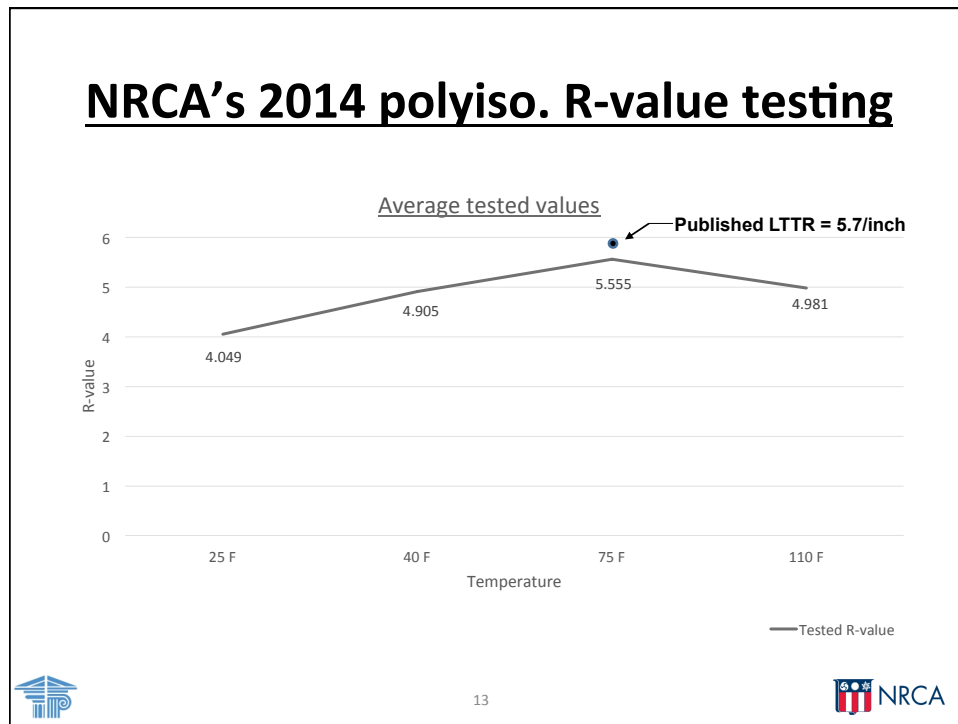
- Repeating similar NRCA testing from 2009
- Newly-manufactured (uninstalled) samples
  - 2.0-inch-thick
  - Permeable-facer-sheet faced
  - Obtained through distribution
- Nationally-recognized testing laboratory
- ASTM C518 tested “as received”
- Tested at 75 F, and 25 F, 40 F and 110 F



### **NRCA’s 2014 polyiso. R-value testing**

Sample	R-value, per inch thickness (2-inch specimens)			
	25 F	40 F	75 F	110 F
1	3.765	4.757	5.774	5.118
2	3.909	4.719	5.444	4.958
3	4.737	5.350	5.371	4.810
4	3.506	4.509	5.828	5.227
5	4.221	5.269	5.522	4.929
6	3.775	4.854	5.889	5.247
7	4.431	4.878	5.058	4.581
Ave. (mean)	4.049	4.905	5.555	4.981
Std. dev.	0.432	0.302	0.297	0.239





### NRCA's recommendations


Polyisocyanurate insulation

Designers should use in-service R-values:

- Heating conditions: R=5.0 per inch thickness
- Cooling conditions: R=5.6 per inch thickness

Specify insulation by its thickness,  
not its R-value or LTTR value

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## Professional Roofing, March 2015

**TECH TODAY**

### Testing R-values

Polysiocyanurate's R-values are found to be less than their LTR values  
by Mark S. Graham

In late 2014, NRCA conducted limited R-value testing of polysiocyanurate insulation products. The test results show R-values lower than the product manufacturer's published long-term thermal resistance (LTR) values.

**2014 testing**  
NRCA obtained seven samples of newly manufactured (unweathered), 2-inch-thick, permeable-foam-core rigid polysiocyanurate insulation made by six U.S. manufacturers. The samples were obtained from NRCA contractor members throughout the U.S.

The samples were provided to a nationally recognized R-value testing laboratory, R & D Services Inc., Corvallis, Tenn., for R-value testing according to ASTM C518, "Standard Test Method for Steady-State Thermal Resistance Properties by Means of the Heat Flow Meter Apparatus." The samples were tested "as received," meaning without additional aging. The samples ranged in age from three months to 19 months at the time of testing. R-values were tested at a 75 F mean reference temperature, as well as at 25 F, 40 F and 110 F. Although R-values varied at the 75 F mean reference temperature (typically are reported in insulation product manufacturer literature), NRCA sees the additional test temperatures as being more representative of actual in-service conditions.

Data from this testing is provided in the figure.

**Analysis**  
Review of the 75 F data reveals the average of the results are less than the product's published LTR values. Only three of the seven specimens have R-values greater than 5.7 per inch for a 2-inch-thickness.

The LTR average is rounded to replicate a 15-year time-weighted average of a product's R-value, which corresponds to a product's R-value after five years of aging. Because most of the products tested were even closer to 5 years old at the time of testing, all their tested R-values at 75 F should be somewhat above their published LTR values.

In 2009, NRCA conducted similar R-value testing of insulation samples, and the results were much the same.

Review of the current test data at 25 F, 40 F and 110 F shows tested R-values are notably lower than those tested at 75 F.

Comparing current test data with the 2009 test data reveals the current test values are somewhat lower. For example, the average of the current 25 F R-values is 4.05 compared with 4.74 in 2009. At 40 F, the average of the current R-values is 4.91 compared with 5.39 in 2009.

**NRCA's recommendations**  
Although the 75 F mean test temperature may be useful for product comparison and labeling purposes, based on NRCA's testing, it is clear this parameter is not representative of in-service conditions. For this reason, NRCA recommends designers consider polysiocyanurate insulation product in-service R-values for the specific climate where a building is located.

NRCA recommends designers using polysiocyanurate insulation determine thermal insulation requirements using an in-service R-value of 5.6 per inch thickness in heating conditions and 5.6 per inch thickness in cooling conditions.

Furthermore, NRCA recommends designers specify polysiocyanurate insulation by its desired thickness rather than its R-value or LTR value to avoid possible confusion during procurement.

Additional information regarding the use of polysiocyanurate insulation is provided in The NRCA Roofing Manual, *Membrane Roof Systems—2015*. ■■■

**MARK S. GRAHAM** is NRCA's associate executive director of technical services.

Sample number	R-value, per inch thickness (2-inch specimens)			
	25 F	40 F	75 F	110 F
1	3.765	4.257	5.774	5.118
2	3.909	4.719	5.444	4.958
3	4.737	5.350	5.371	4.810
4	3.506	4.509	5.828	5.227
5	4.231	5.269	5.322	4.929
6	3.775	4.854	5.889	5.247
7	4.431	4.878	5.058	4.581
Average (found)	4.049	4.900	5.555	4.981
Standard deviation	0.432	0.302	0.297	0.239

Data from NRCA's 2014 polysiocyanurate R-value testing

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## Concrete roof deck issues





## **Reported roofing-related problems**

Concrete roof decks

- Moisture within the roof system
- Loss of adhesion
- Insulation facer delamination
- Adhesive curing issues
- Mold growth
- Fastener/metal corrosion
- R-value loss



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## **Concrete drying rates<sup>1</sup>**

- Normal-weight structural concrete:
  - Less than 90 days
- Light-weight structural concrete:
  - Almost 6 months

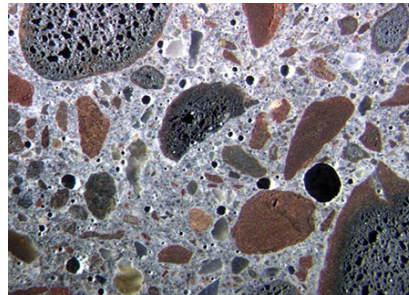
<sup>1</sup> Howard Kanare, "Concrete Floors and Moisture, Second Edition," 75 percent internal RH, controlled laboratory conditions



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## An up-close look



## NRCA Industry Issue Update, August 2013

INDUSTRY ISSUE UPDATE

— NRCA Member Benefit —

Moisture in Lightweight Structural Concrete Roof Decks

Concrete Moisture Presents Challenges for Roofing Contractors

**NRCA Technical Services Section** is working on increasing number of inquiries relating to the application of roof systems over concrete roof decks. These inquiries can be separated into two general questions: "When is a concrete roof deck dry enough to apply a roof covering?" and "Why is a roof system applied over a concrete roof deck showing signs of moisture intrusion when the roof covering isn't leaking?"

**CONCRETE BASICS**

There are three general types of concrete: normal-weight structural concrete, lightweight structural concrete and lightweight insulating concrete.

Normal-weight structural concrete is what most people think of as concrete: it has a density of about 150 pounds per cubic foot (pcf). Lightweight structural concrete has structural load-carrying capabilities similar to normal-weight structural concrete; it has a density in the range of 85 to 130 pcf. Lightweight insulating concrete, which many roofing professionals are familiar with as an insulating, slope-to-drain deck topping, typically has a density in the range from 20 to 40 pcf.

Structural concrete – normal-weight structural concrete and lightweight structural concrete – is produced by mixing large and small aggregates, Portland cement, water and, in some instances, admixtures such as fly ash or various chemical additives. Admixtures can add entrained air to the concrete, accelerate concrete's curing, retain concrete's moisture and/or lengthen concrete's finishing time. Use of admixtures typically is not visually identifiable in the field; microscopic analysis usually is needed for post-application identification of admixtures.

The primary difference in the composition of normal-weight structural concrete and lightweight structural concrete is the large aggregate type. Normal-weight structural concrete contains normal-weight aggregate such as stone or crushed gravel, which are dense and typically will absorb no more moisture than about 2 percent by weight. Lightweight structural concrete uses lightweight,

porous aggregate such as expanded shale, which will absorb about 5 to 25 percent moisture by weight. Lightweight aggregate needs to be saturated with moisture—it's often stored in ponds—before mixing. As a result, lightweight structural concrete inherently contains much more water than normal-weight structural concrete.

Lightweight structural concrete is used in roofing-related applications for cast-in-place concrete roof decks using removable form composite roof decks where a metal form deck remains in place and as a deck topping material, such as a concrete topping surface over precast concrete planks or tees.

Once poured, lightweight structural concrete typically cures to be easily distinguished from normal-weight structural concrete.

Visual identification is possible using magnification, typically a microscope used by a trained technician.

**REPORTED PROBLEMS**

The problems reported to NRCA associated with lightweight structural concrete roof decks include the following:

- **Moisture accumulation.** Excessive moisture from a concrete deck can be present differential drains into and condensed within a roof system.
- **Adhesive del.** The presence of moisture can result in deterioration of moisture-sensitive roofing materials and adhesive bond loss between adhered material layers.
- **Adhesive issue with water-based and low-solids organic compounds.** Excessive moisture can affect adhesive curing and drying rate. Also, moisture can result in adhesive "bleeding," resulting in bond strength loss.
- **Metal and fiber corrosion.** Excessive moisture can contribute to and accelerate metal component corrosion, including fastener corrosion.
- **Insulation R-value del.** The accumulation and presence of moisture in most insulation products will result in reduced thermal performance (lower effective R-value).
- **Microbial growth.** The presence of prolonged high-moisture

### NRCA's recommendations:

- Designers should avoid using light-weight structural concrete for roof decks
- Remedial system configurations for retrofit applications



## Steel roof deck concerns



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## Steel deck design

Prior to 2010:

- SDI's *Design Manual for Composite Decks, Form Decks and Roof Decks*
- ANSI/SDI RD1.0-2006, "Standard for Steel Roof Deck" (referenced in IBC 2009)

30-pound-per-square-foot (psf) uplift  
and 45-psf uplift at roof overhangs



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## Steel deck design

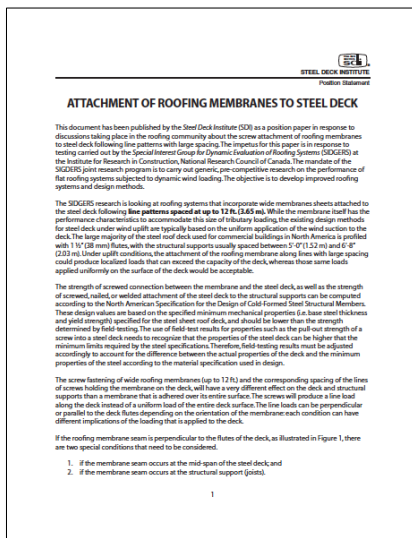
Since 2010:

- ANSI/SDI RD1.0-2010, “Standard for Steel Roof Deck” (referenced in IBC 2012 and IBC 2015)

“... be anchored to resist the required net uplift forces, but not less than...”  
30 psf and 45 psf for eave overhangs



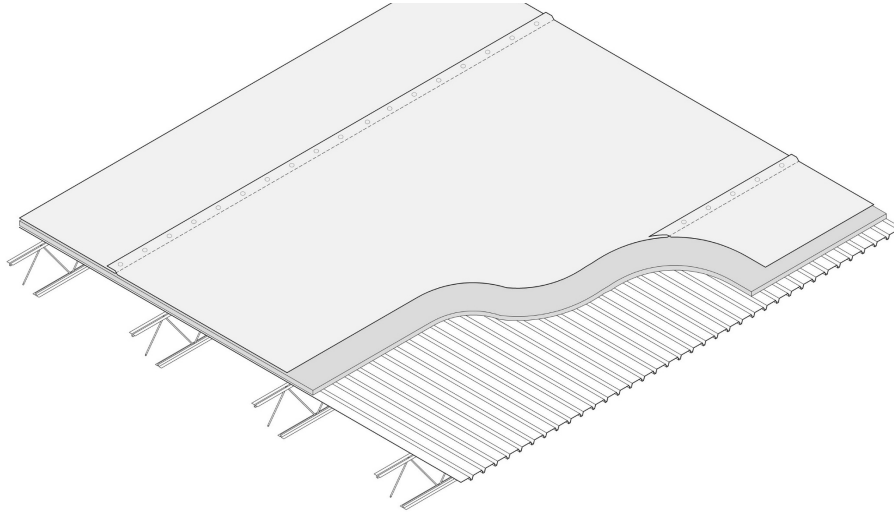
## SDI bulletin



- Decks designed for joist spacing between 5' and 6' 8" o.c.
- Steel decks designed for uniform loading
- Seam-fastened single-ply membranes are a concern



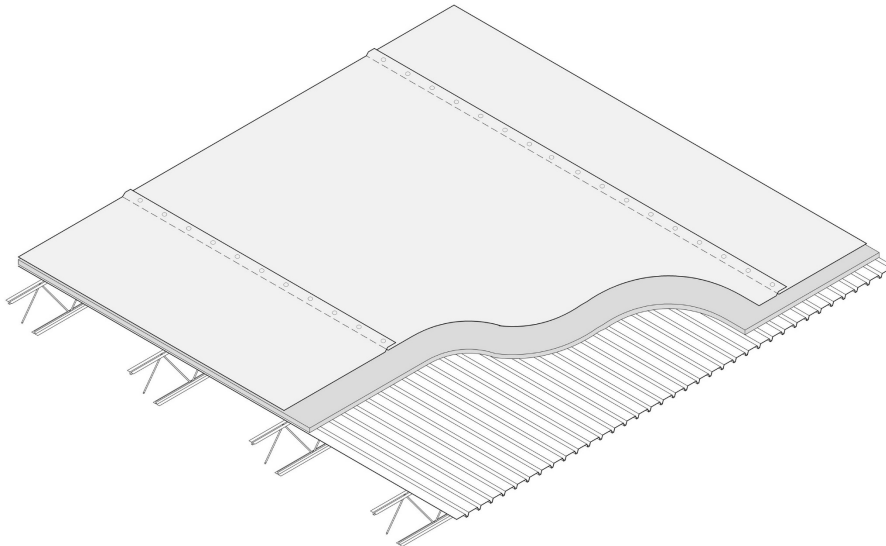
**Membrane seams across deck flutes**



SDI: 3.8 X moment (deck); 2 X load (joists)

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**Membrane seams in deck flute direction**



SDI: 12 X bending moment and shear (deck)

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## **SDI bulletin -- Conclusion**

“...SDI does not recommend the use of roofing membranes attached to the steel deck using line patterns with large spacing unless a structural engineer has reviewed the adequacy of the steel deck and the structural supports to resist to wind uplift loads transmitted along the lines of attachment. Those lines of attachment shall only be perpendicular to the flutes of the deck.”



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## **NRCA's recommendations**

- Beware of the situation
- Roof system designers should not rely on “excess capacity” in steel roof decks
- Be cautious of “accepting” responsibility for the roof deck; use NRLRC recommended proposal/contract language
- Better communication is needed between roof system designers and roof deck designers



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# Professional Roofing "Tech today"

January 2015

**TECH TODAY**

## Concerns with steel roof decks

Seam-fastened single-ply membrane systems may be problematic

by Mark S. Graham

Steel roof decks are the most popular roof deck type used in the U.S. However, inconsistencies between design methods used for steel roof decks and roof systems are cause for concern.

SDI guidelines

Steel roof decks typically are designed using guidelines developed by the Steel Deck Institute (SDI).

Dialogue is necessary between steel roof deck designers and roof system designers

Historically, SDI's design guidelines for steel roof decks have been published in various editions of SDI's *Design Manual for Composite Deck, Form Deck and Roof Deck*. SDI has revised and updated its manual a number of times during the year. For example, the 2012 edition is referred to as "Publication No. 31."

Beginning in 2006, SDI published its design specifications for steel roof decks as ANSISDI RD-1.2-2006, "Standard for Steel Roof Deck." The 2010 edition, ANSISDI RD-2010, is the current edition.

Before the 2010 edition of the International Building Code (IBC), SDI's design guidelines were not specifically referenced in model building codes. ANSISDI RD-1.2-2006 is referenced as a requirement in the International Building Code 2006 Edition (IBC 2006). ANSISDI RD-2010 is referenced in IBC 2012 and IBC 2015.

SDI's design manual and ANSISDI RD-1.2-2006 provide for roof decks to be designed for a 30-psf uniform load (uniformly distributed load) and 45-psf uplift at roof overhang. ANSISDI RD-1.2-2006 also allows

a roof deck's dead load to be deducted from the prescribed design uplift load.

ANSISDI RD-2010 stipulates roof decks must "... be anchored to resist the required net uplift forces, but not less than ... 30 psf and 45 psf for overhangs.

Also, in 2009, SDI issued a position statement, "Attachment of Roofing Membranes to Steel Deck." In this statement, SDI indicates its design methods are based on uniform loading of roof decks, with that provided by adhered built-up, polymer-modified bitumen or single-ply membrane roof systems. SDI's statement further explains with design uplift loading conditions, attachment of seam-fastened mechanically attached single-ply membrane roof systems with wide seam spacing could result in localized loads that exceed roof deck capacity. These same loads applied uniformly on a deck's surface would be acceptable.

NRCA's analysis

When buildings are designed, the design team's structural engineer typically will be responsible for the design of the roof structure and roof deck. If SDI's guidelines are used, steel roof decks most likely will be designed for a 30-psf uniform uplift capacity with little or no consideration of the roof system type being installed.

Roof system designers typically have relatively little knowledge of steel deck design. Many roof system designers rely on IMCA's Approval classifications for designing and specifying roof systems which likely results in widely different design uplift capacities between roof systems and steel roof decks.

The example, a roof system with an IMCA 1-80 or Class 90 uplift classification is intended to resist a 45-psf uplift load in the roof

field and higher uplift loads in the roof ends perimeter and corners. If this roof system is designed to be installed on a steel roof deck using SDI's guidelines for a 30-psf uplift, the roof deck has a design uplift capacity of only about one-third (or less) that of the roof system. In this case, attachment of the roof deck to the roof structure is of specific concern.

Similarly, with seam-fastened mechanically attached membrane roof systems where the roof membrane's seam spacing exceeds the spacing of the roof deck's structural supports, the steel roof deck likely has a design uplift capacity (or possibly significantly less than the roof system). Roof deck buckling under uplift loading, attachment of the roof deck to the roof structure and, in some instances, localized excess uplift loading of the roof structure are of concern.

In many instances, steel roof decks are fabricated from steel deck with yield strengths in excess of those prescribed in ANSISDI RD-2010. This results in steel roof decks being somewhat stronger than what SDI's prescribes for uplift design purposes. However, roof system designers should not unknowingly rely on any capacity in excess of steel roof deck's design properties.

Clearly, dialogue is necessary between steel roof deck designers and roof system designers. Additional dialogue between the roofing and steel deck industries also is needed.

Additional information about steel roof decks is contained in the roof deck section of The NRCA Roofing Manual: Membrane Roof Systems, which is available by accessing [www.nrca.com](http://www.nrca.com) or calling (800) 433-NRCA (275-6722).

**MARK S. GRAHAM** is NRCA's associate executive director of technical services.

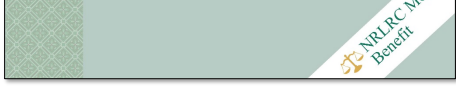
12 [www.professionroofing.net](http://www.professionroofing.net) JANUARY 2015



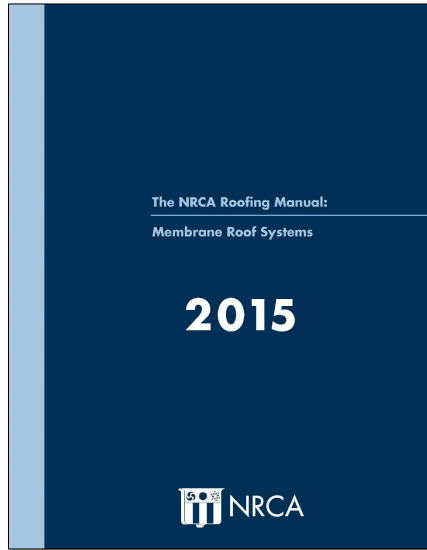
# Consider adding contract provisions



"Roofing Contractor's commencement of the roof installation indicates only that the Roofing Contractor has visually inspected the surface of the roof deck for visible defects and has accepted the surface of the roof deck. Roofing Contractor is not responsible for the construction, structural sufficiency, durability, fastening, moisture content, suitability, or physical properties of the roof deck or other trades' work or design. Roofing Contractor is not responsible to test or assess moisture content of the deck or substrate."



## Updating the NRCA Roofing Manual



### Membrane Roof System-2015:

- Replaces 2011 volume
- Reformatted
- Updated Ch. 4-Rigid Board Insul.
- Updated Ch. 5-Roof Membranes
- Expanded Ch. 9-Reroofing



## The NRCA Roofing Manual





## Manual online

[www.nrca.net](http://www.nrca.net)

The screenshot shows the NRCA website interface. At the top, there's a navigation menu with options like 'Members only', 'Bookstore', 'Technical', 'Education', 'Member directory', 'Government advocacy', 'Safety and insurance', 'About', and 'Contact'. The main heading is 'Manual online' with the URL 'www.nrca.net'. Below this, there's a section for 'The NRCA Roofing Manual' which includes a 'Renew your membership' button and a 'Roofing industry news' section. A 'Find a contractor' form is also visible, with fields for 'Roof type', 'ZIP Code', and 'Find roofing contractors by state'. The page is branded with the NRCA logo and includes a 'Contact | JOIN' link in the top right corner.

- Available to all NRCA member registered users
- “Members only” section. Click on “My account”, then “Electronic files”
- View, download and print



## NRCA App

The screenshot shows the NRCA App interface on a tablet. The app displays various roofing-related content, including 'NRCA Guidelines for Asphalt Shingle Roof Systems', 'LEED v4 - Building related Practices', and 'The NRCA Roofing Manual'. The interface is clean and professional, with a focus on providing technical information to members.

- NRCA App available on the Apple Store and Google Play Store for tablets
- iPhone App available in Summer
- Register within App as being an NRCA member
- The NRCA Roofing Manual is viewable to NRCA members
- Favorite and send pages features





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