



**NRCA update on roofing industry technical issues**  
Wednesday, February 5, 2020

presented by

**Mark S. Graham**  
Vice President, Technical Services  
National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA)



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**Learning objectives:**

- Discuss new NRCA technical publications.
- Define current roofing-related technical issues.
- Identify newly-developing roofing-related technical issues.



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### **Topics**

- NRCA technical committees
  - New NRCA technical publications
- Moisture in structural concrete roof decks
- Polymer-modified bitumen sheet testing
- Fastener pull-out testing
- Roof system R-value testing
- FM Global's very severe hail (VSR) classification
- ASCE 7-16 implementation
- SDI bulletin (seam-fastened membrane systems)
- Questions and dialogue

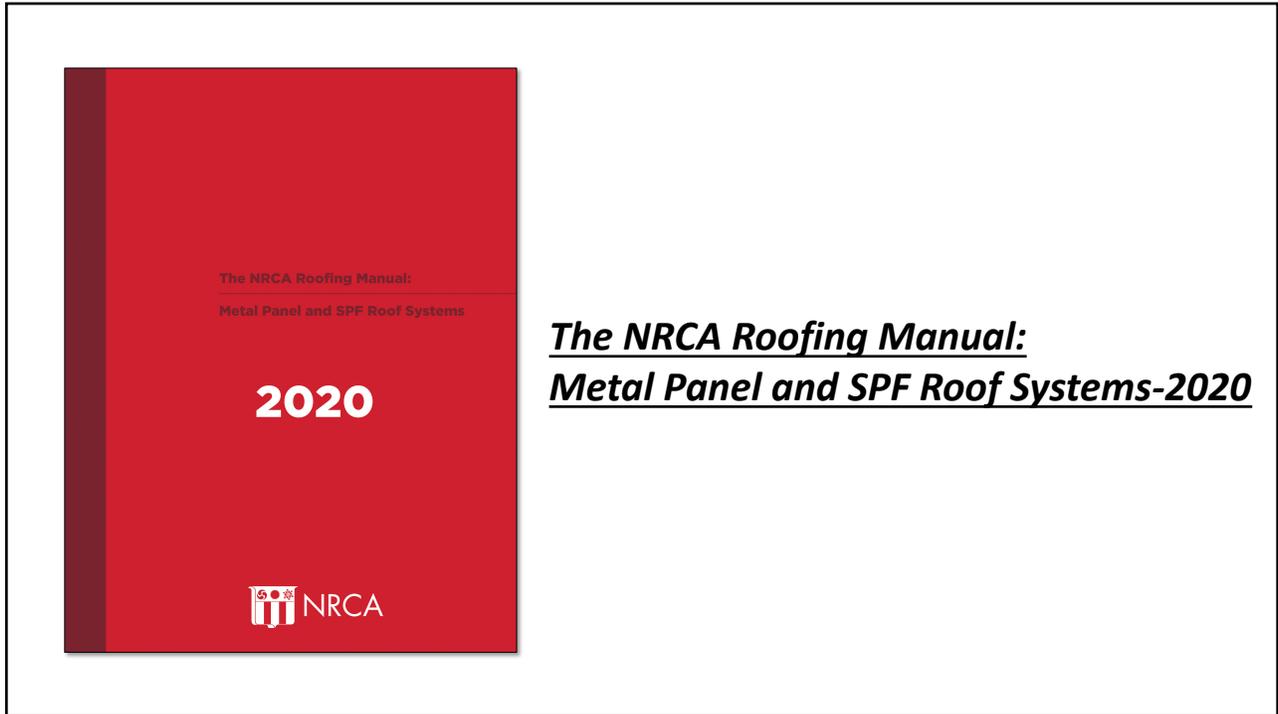
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### **NRCA Technical Committees**

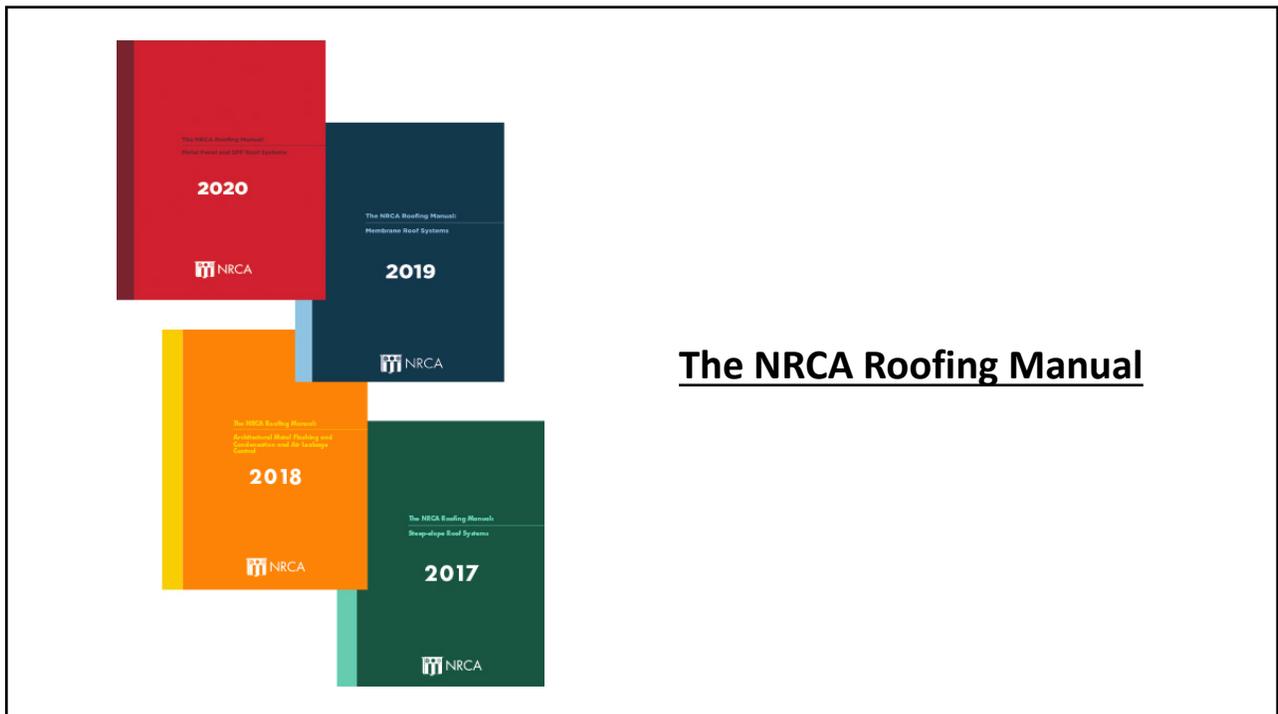
2019-20 NRCA fiscal year (June 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020)

- Technical Operations Committee
- Manual Update Committee
- Waterproofing Task Force
- Roof Tile Task Force
- Roof Coatings Task Force
- Steep-slope Repair Manual Task Force
- Metal Wall Panel Task Force

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## Spanish version of The NRCA Roofing Manual



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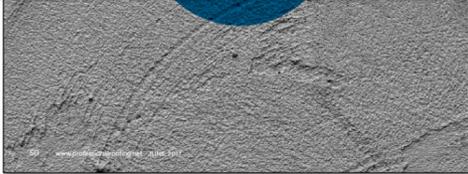
## Moisture in concrete roof decks

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Age	ASTM E96 calculated perm			
	Lightweight structural concrete		Normal weight concrete	
	Wet cup	Dry cup	Wet cup	Dry cup
28 days	1.48	0.78	3.42	1.05
60 days	1.45	0.47	2.03	1.13

The figure shows results of ASTM E96 water vapor transmission testing. Note the lightweight structural concrete has about half the permeability of regular weight concrete. Considering lightweight structural concrete arrives with more than twice the evaporable water of regular weight concrete, this explains why lightweight structural concrete retains moisture for so long.



*Professional Roofing, June 2017*

RESEARCH+TECH



Are admixtures the answer?

Moisture in concrete roof decks continues to be problematic  
by Mark S. Graham

**N** NRCA Technical Services Section has been receiving inquiries regarding the use and effectiveness of specific concrete admixtures and topical surface treatments to allow moisture release-related concrete with concrete roof decks. Such admixtures typically are referred to as moisture vapor reduction admixtures (MVRAs) or possibly penetrating admixtures. NRCA provides recommendations regarding their use.

NRCA Concrete admixtures intended as MVRAs are specific chemicals added during concrete's batching and mixing to provide an additional chemical reaction during the concrete's hydration and curing process. MVRAs use the concrete mix's excess water and chlorides to create a calcium silicate hydrate gel within the concrete. The gel is said to fill the small pores and capillary openings in curing concrete, enhancing the concrete's ability to pass and release moisture vapor. The gel is intended to be permanent and integral throughout the concrete's entire thickness.

24 www.professionalroofing.net DECEMBER 2018

*Professional Roofing, December 2018*

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Specimen No.	Deck 1 (no MVRA)		Deck 2 (with an MVRA)		Deck 3 (with an MVRA)	
	1-1	1-2	2-1	2-2	3-1	3-2
Permeability (U.S. perm)	1.9	1.8	3.7	3.4	3.7	3.8

Table: Average tested permeability values

**P** Putting it to the test  
NRCA conducts testing of moisture vapor reduction admixtures  
by Mark S. Graham

**N** Concrete admixtures intended as MVRAs are specific chemicals added during concrete's batching and mixing to provide an additional chemical reaction during the concrete's hydration and curing process. MVRAs use the concrete mix's excess water and chlorides to create a calcium silicate hydrate gel within the concrete. The gel is said to fill the small pores and capillary openings in curing concrete, minimizing the concrete's ability to pass and release moisture vapor. The gel is intended to be permanent and integral throughout the concrete's thickness.

NRCA MVRAs are available from numerous suppliers and typically added to a concrete mix at the concrete batch plant separately from any other admixtures. Some MVRA suppliers permit their MVRAs to be added to concrete mixers at job sites provided the concrete mixer's drum is rotated for a supplier's recommended minimum amount of time after dosage and before concrete discharge and placement.

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*Professional Roofing*

February 2020

“...These test results contradict claims an MVRA minimizes concrete’s ability to pass and release moisture vapor...”

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The screenshot shows the NRCA website header with navigation links: About, Become A Member, Member Directory, and Consumers. Below the header is a red navigation bar with links: Legal Database, Legal Help Line, Education, Resources, Legal Library, and My Account. The main content area displays a news article titled "Contract provision addresses installation of roof system over concrete deck". The article text is as follows:

**Assessing moisture content in roof deck:** Roofing Contractor is not responsible for the effects of moisture migration originating within the roof deck or substrate, including concrete decks, or due to moisture vapor drive from within the building. Residual moisture within the roof deck, particularly structural concrete decks, can adversely affect the properties and performance of roofing materials, regardless of additives or concrete admixtures that may be included in the concrete mix. Roofing Contractor's commencement of roof installation indicates only that the Roofing Contractor has visibly inspected the surface of the deck for visible defects prior to commencement of roofing and the surface of the deck appeared dry. The 28-day concrete curing period does not signify the deck is sufficiently dry.

Roofing Contractor is not responsible to test or assess the moisture content of the deck or evaluate the likelihood of condensation from moisture drive within the building. Roofing contractor recommends that roofing not commence until probes in concrete decks show moisture content is no greater than 75% relative humidity when there is no organic content within the roofing materials. Wood fiberboard, perlite and organic paper facers on polyisocyanurate insulation will generate mold with relative humidity as low as about 65-70%.

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## Coming soon...

- Publication of the final report on SRI's industry-sponsored concrete moisture research
- Research summary article written by Matt Dupuis in the March issue of *Professional Roofing*
- NRCA "Industry Issue update," which will summarize the research to date and provide NRCA latest recommendations

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## Polymer-modified bitumen sheet testing

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Polymer-modified bitumen test results			
Sample (manufacturers and product)	Low-temperature flexibility (F)		Granule embedment as received (grams)
	As received	Heat aged (90 days at 158 F)	
SBS products			
1-A	-25	-25	0.9
2-A	-20	-15	1.6
2-B	0	15	0.7
2-C	-35	-15	1.3
3-A	10	20	1.8
4-A	-30	-30	1.1
4-B	-15	-5	0.8
5-A	-5	0	0.6
5-B	10	10	0.7
6-A	-20	-15	1.1
9-A	-30	-15	0.6
ASTM International's maximum allowable values	0	0	2
APP products			
3-B	20	20	0.7
8-A	20	35	3.4
ASTM International's maximum allowable values	32	32	2

**Professional Roofing**  
February 2016

*Nine of 13 products tested complied...*

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**2011 testing**

Only six of the 16 products tested complied....

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**2019 MB testing**

- ASTM D5147 -- Low-temperature flexibility (as received)
- ASTM D4977 -- Granule embedment (as received)
- ASTM D3461 -- Softening point (as received)

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## Products tested

2019 MB testing

- 18 products tested:
  - 7 APP
  - 9 SBS
  - 15 products with granules
  - 3 products without granules (granule embedment doesn't apply)
- Manufacturers:
  - 10 (CertainTeed, Derbigum, Firestone, GAF, Garland, JM, Polyglass, Siplast, Soprema and Tremco)

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## Results – SBS products

2019 testing

Sample ID	Modifier	ASTM designation	Low-temp. flex. (F)	Granule loss (g)
1-A	SBS	ASTM D6164, Type I, Grade G	-13	0.56
3-A	SBS	ASTM D6164, Type I, Grade S	-27	NA
3-B	SBS	ASTM D6164, Type II, Grade G	-15	0.48
4-A	SBS	ASTM D6164, Type II, Grade G	-16	1.13
5-A	SBS	ASTM D6162, Type III, Grade G	-15	2.05
6-A	SBS	ASTM D6164, Type I, Grade G	-13	0.34
6-B	SBS	ASTM D6164, Type II, Grade G	-13	0.53
6-C	SBS	ASTM G6164, Type I, Grade G	-9	0.55
8-A	SBS	ASTM D6163, Type I, Grade G	-20	0.09
9-A	SBS	ASTM D6164, Type I, Grade G	-8	0.53
10-A	SBS	ASTM D6163, Type III, Grade G	Less than -40	1.16
ASTM spec.			0 (max.)	2.0 (max)

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## Results – APP products

2019 testing

Sample ID	Modifier	ASTM designation	Low-temp. flex. (F)	Granule loss (g)
2-A	APP	ASTM D6223, Type I, Grade G	21	0.95
2-B	APP	ASTM D6223, Type I, Grade S	10	NA
2-C	APP	D6223, Grade G	14	0.60
2-D	APP	ASTM D6222, Type II, Grade G	10	0.65
2-E	APP	D6223, Grade G	9	NA
7-A	APP	D6222, Grade G	Greater than 41	0.10
7-B	APP	D6222, Type I, Grade G	Greater than 41	0.88
		ASTM spec.	32 (max.)	2.0 (max)

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## Summary of results

- 15 of the 18 products tested comply
- Results notably are better than 2015 and 2011
- Still some reason(s) for concern

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### **Softening point testing**

- Tested sheet backside (bottomside) coating material and parting media (sand, film)
- Tested using ASTM D3461 (ring and ball)

APP products: 309 F to 330 F

SBS products: 239 F to 293 F

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### **Recommendations**

2019 MB testing

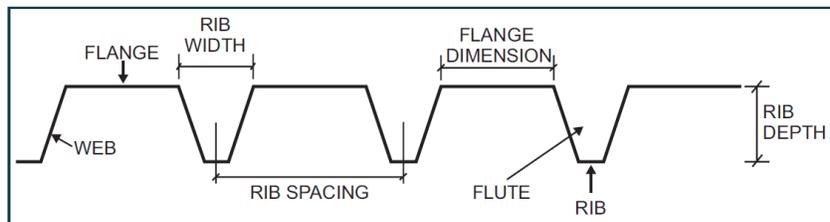
- Select MB products carefully
- Consider seeking out products with third-party verification of compliance:
  - UL product certification
  - PRI Product Validation
  - Dade County Approval
- As always, call NRCA Technical Services if you see anything unusual

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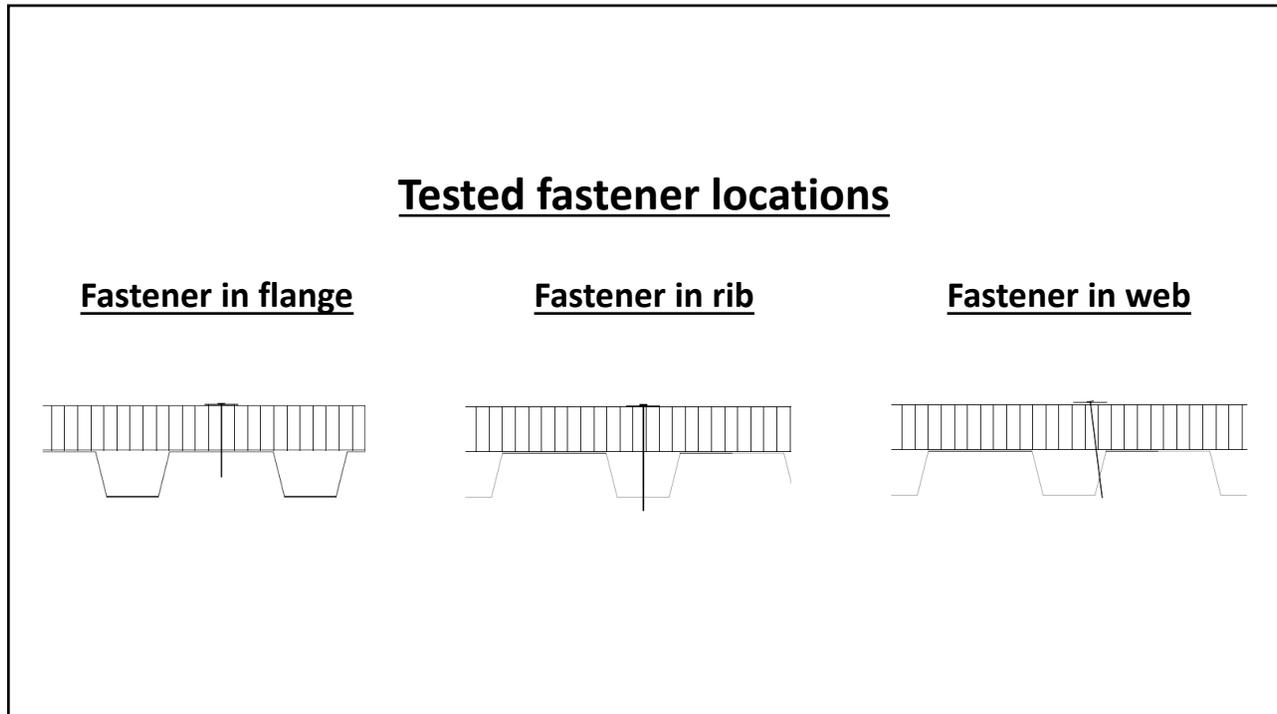
## Fastener pull-out testing

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## Terminology -- Steel roof decks



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**Other test parameters**

**Steel deck types:**

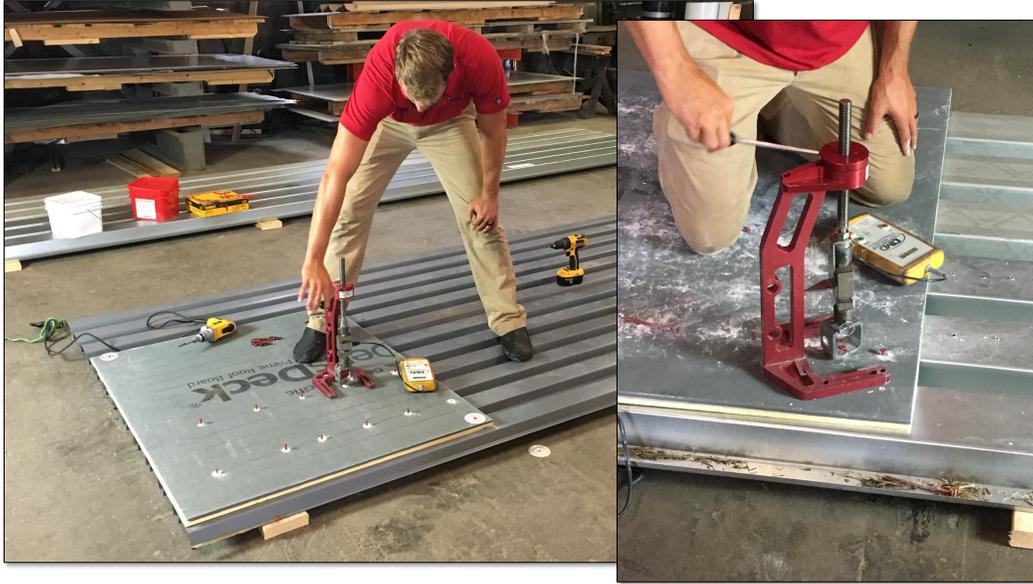
- 22 ga., 1½-in.-thick, Type B-deck
- 20 ga., 3-in.-thick, Type N-deck (Type 3DR)

**Fastener types:**

- All-purpose fastener (#14)
  - Published pull-out values:
    - 22 ga.: 315 lbf at 33 ksi and 480 lbf at 80 ksi
    - 20 ga.: 420 lbf at 33 ksi and 615 lbf at 80 ksi
- Heavy duty fastener (#15)
  - Published pull-out values:
    - 22 ga.: 595 lbf at 33 ksi and 650 lbf at 80 ksi

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**Test set-up and equipment**



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**Test data**

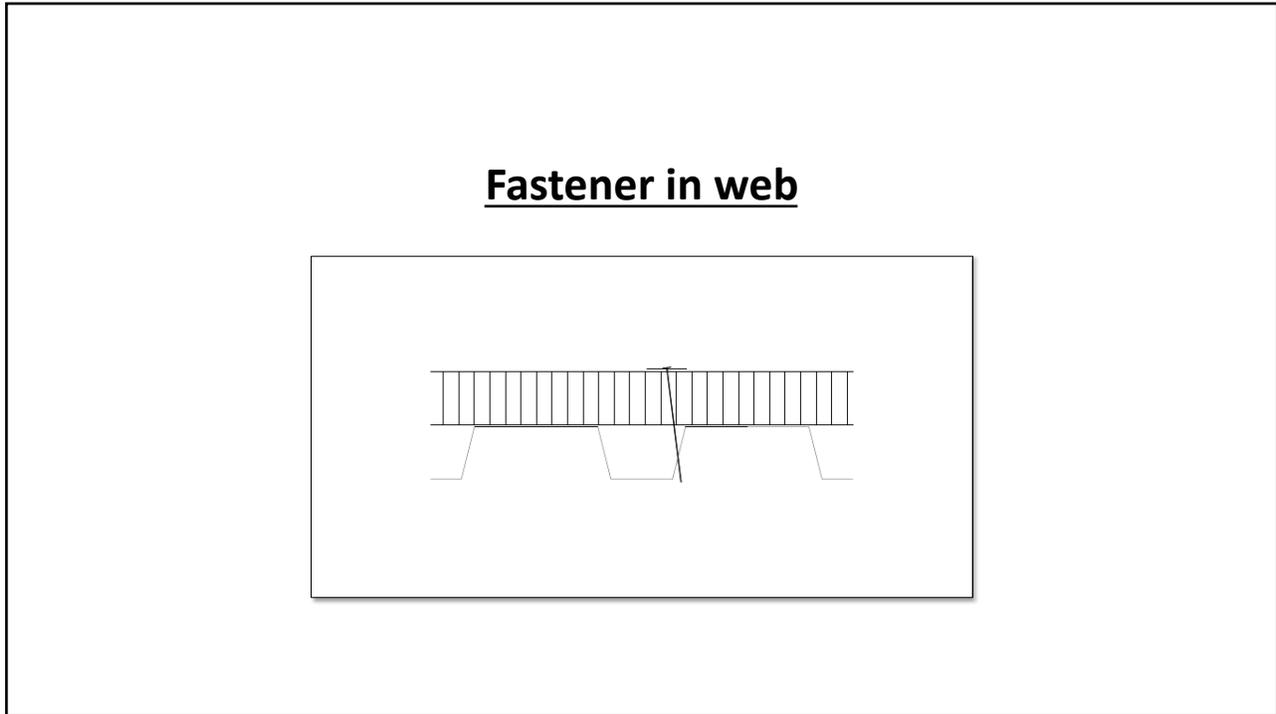
22 ga., 1½-in.-thick, Type B deck  
 All-purpose Fastener (#14)  
 Average value 10 pull-out tests

Fastener in flange	Fastener in rib	Fastener in web
637.4 lbf	561.1 lbf	556.2 lbf

Published pull-out value is 315-480 lbf

*Tested fastener in rib value is 88 % of fastener in flange value*  
*Tested fastener in web value is 87% of fastener in flange value*

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**Test data**

22 ga., 1½-in.-thick, Type B deck  
Heavy Duty Fastener (#15)  
Average value 10 pull-out tests

Fastener in flange	Fastener in rib	Fastener in web
761 lbf	680.9 lbf	674.8 lbf

Published pull-out value is 595-650 lbf

*Tested fastener in rib value is 89 % of fastener in flange value*  
*Tested fastener in web value is 89% of fastener in flange value*

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**Test data**  
 20 ga., 3-in.-thick, Type3DR deck  
 All-purpose Fastener (#14)  
 Average value 10 pull-out tests

Fastener in flange	Fastener in rib	Fastener in web
848.8 lbf	732.8 lbf	733.0 lbf

Published pull-out value is 420-615 lbf

*Tested fastener in rib value is 86% of fastener in flange value*  
*Tested fastener in web value is 86% of fastener in flange value*

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**Test data**  
 20 ga., 3-in.-thick, Type3DR deck  
 Heavy Duty Fastener (#15)  
 Average value 10 pull-out tests

Fastener in flange	Fastener in rib	Fastener in web
1,044 lbf	1,037 lbf	978.2 lbf

No published pull-out value

*Tested fastener in rib value is 99% of fastener in flange value*  
*Tested fastener in web value is 94% of fastener in flange value*

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## **Conclusions**

Fastener pull-out testing

- Tested pull-out values are greater than published values
- “Fastener in web” or “Fastener in rib” placement results in a less than 15% reduction in pull-out load versus “Fastener in flange” placement
- Actual deck gauge, deck yield strength and fastener selection have larger impacts on fastener pull-out values
- A safety factor is typically applied to fastener pull-out loads which more than covers this reduction
- This test data applies to insulation fasteners’ performances, not necessarily membrane fasteners’ (e.g, fastener “rocking” due to membrane fluttering)

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## **Roof system R-value testing**

R-value testing of complete roof systems

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## Why roof system testing?

Takes into account the impact(s) of:

- Board joints (thermal bridge)
- Fasteners and plates (thermal bridges)

*Gives us a truer indication of actual roof system thermal performance*

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National Research  
Council Canada

Conseil national de  
recherches Canada

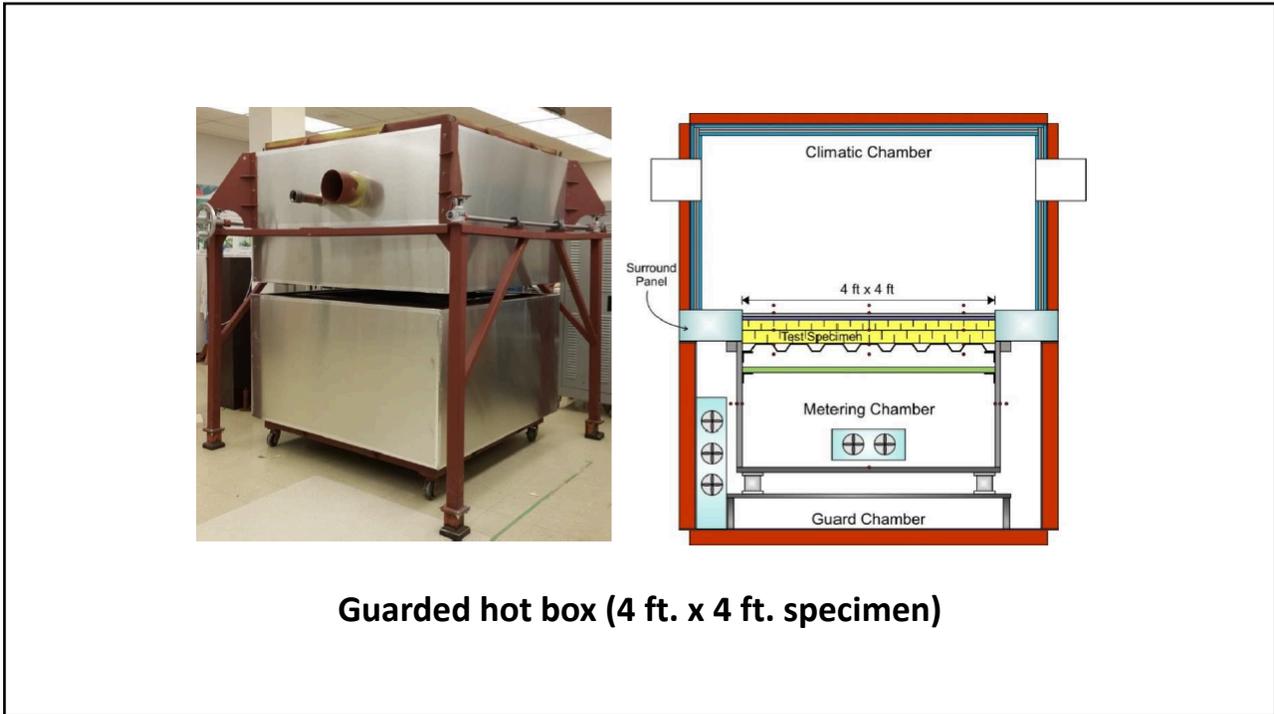
Canada

## Energy Resistance of Commercial Roofs (ERCR)

Project scope

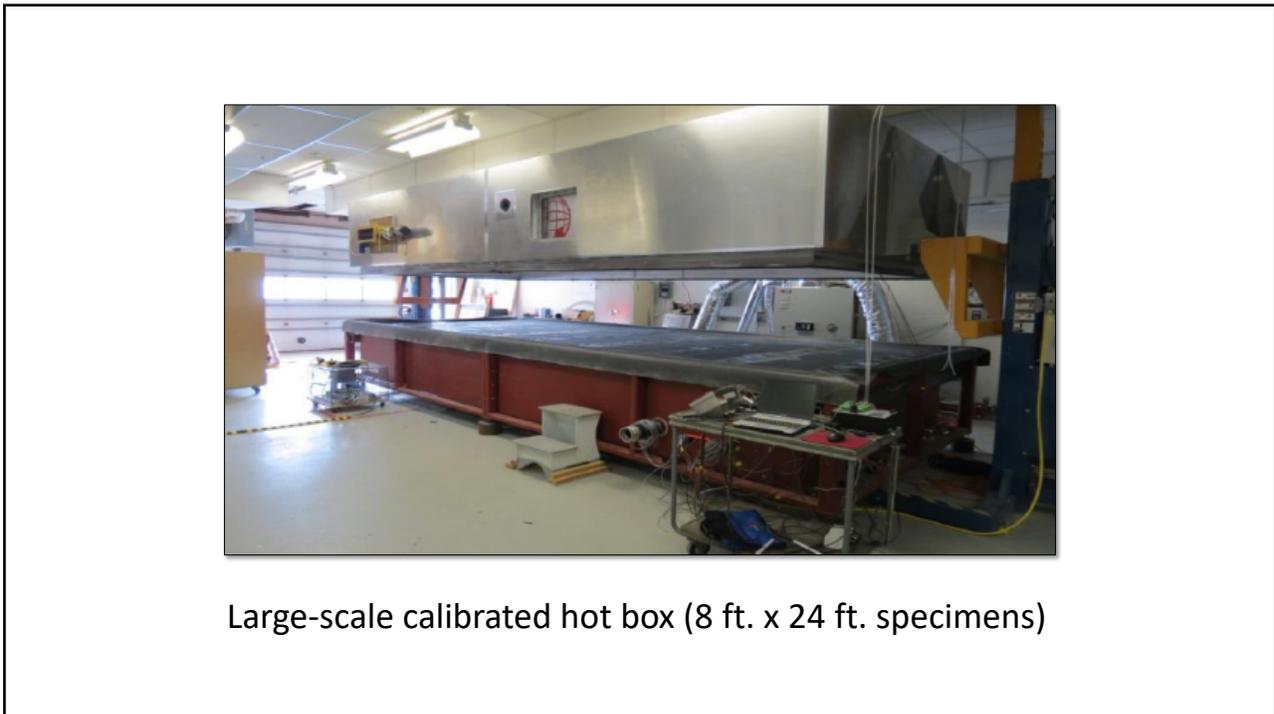
- Evaluate the R-value of individual roof systems components
- Evaluate the impact of fasteners/plates
- Evaluate the impact of board joints
- Development of “compensation factors”

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**Guarded hot box (4 ft. x 4 ft. specimen)**

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**Large-scale calibrated hot box (8 ft. x 24 ft. specimens)**

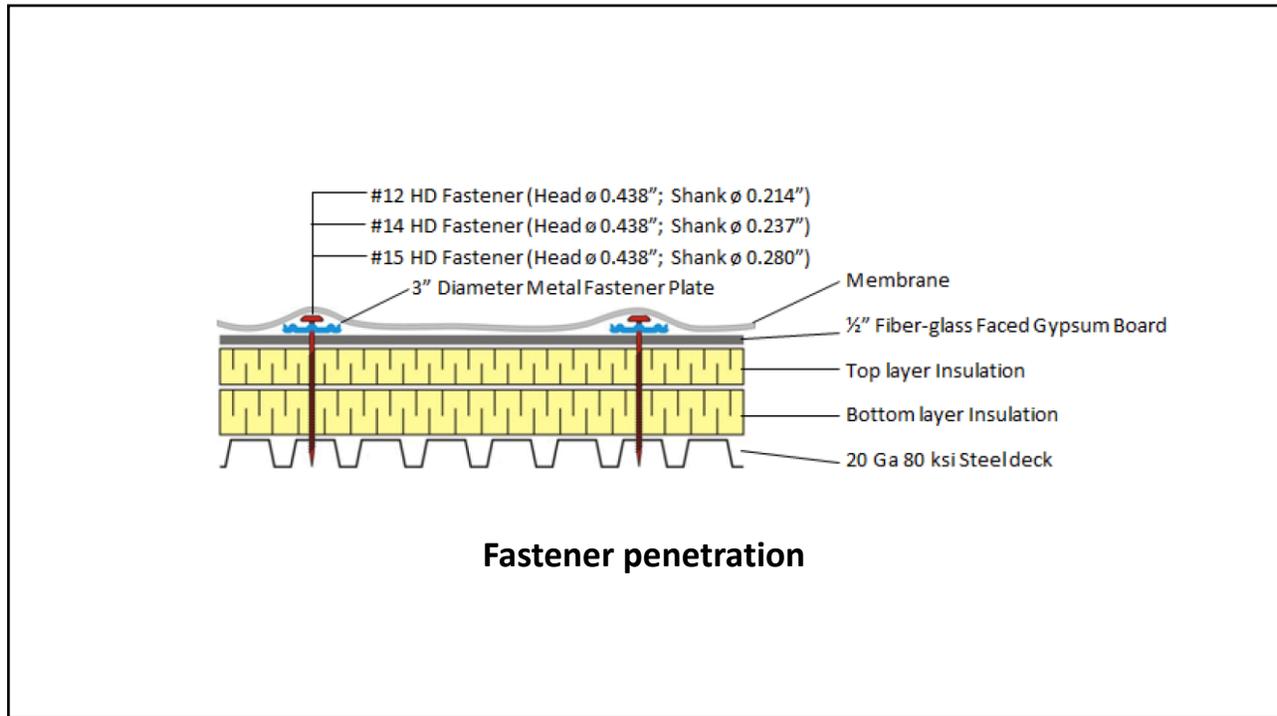
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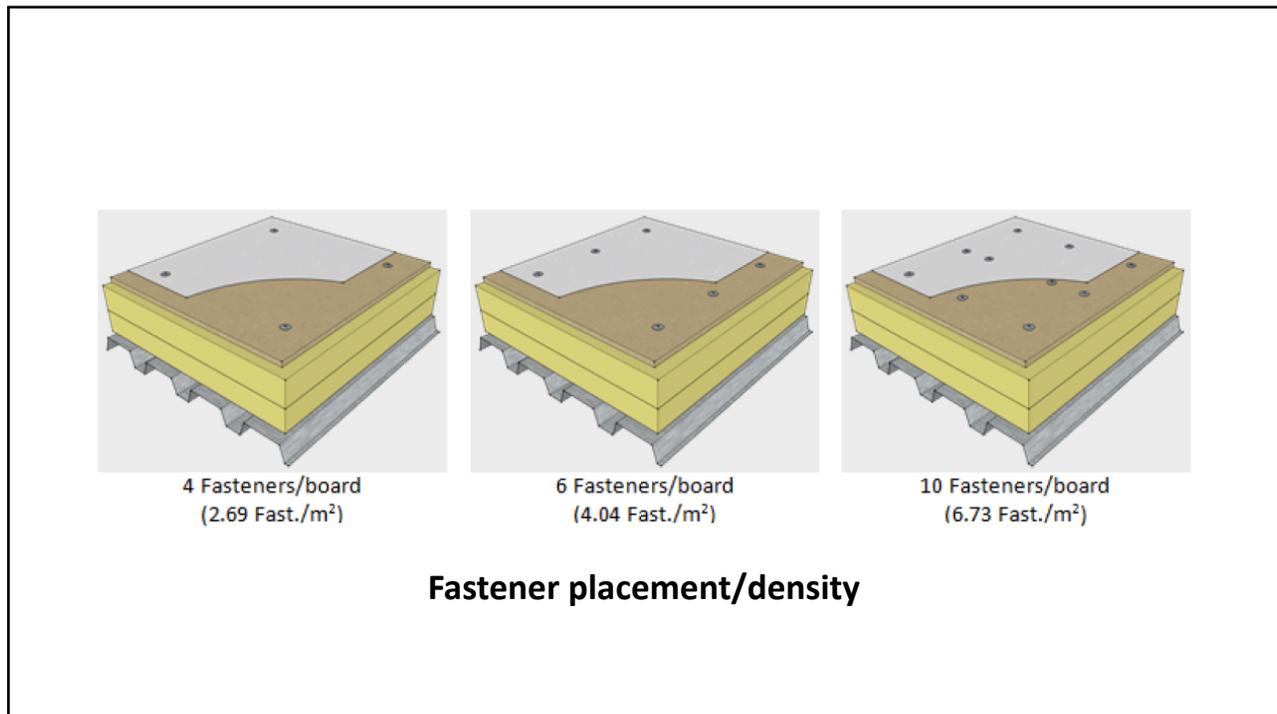
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	New Boards			Stored Boards (in Laboratory conditions)		
	Jul-16 ISO (2" + 2.5")	Oct-16 EPS (3.125" + 3.125")	Feb-17 SW (2.5" + 4")	May-19 ISO (2" + 2.5")	Feb-19 EPS (3.125" + 3.125")	May-19 SW (2.5" + 4")
R-25.21	27.00	24.20	23.46	24.76	24.19	23.38
R-30.21	Mar-17 ISO (2" + 3.3")	May-17 EPS (3.875" + 3.875")	May-17 SW (4" + 4")	May-19 ISO (2" + 3.3")	Feb-19 EPS (3.875" + 3.875")	May-19 SW (4" + 4")
	31.89	29.60	29.07	29.51	29.61	29.05
R-35.21	Apr-18 ISO (2" + 4")	Dec-18 EPS (4.625" + 4.625")	Oct-18 SW (5.5" + 4")	May-19 ISO (2" + 4")	Feb-19 EPS (4.625" + 4.625")	May-19 SW (5.5" + 4")
	35.53	36.69	35.07	34.12	36.64	34.83

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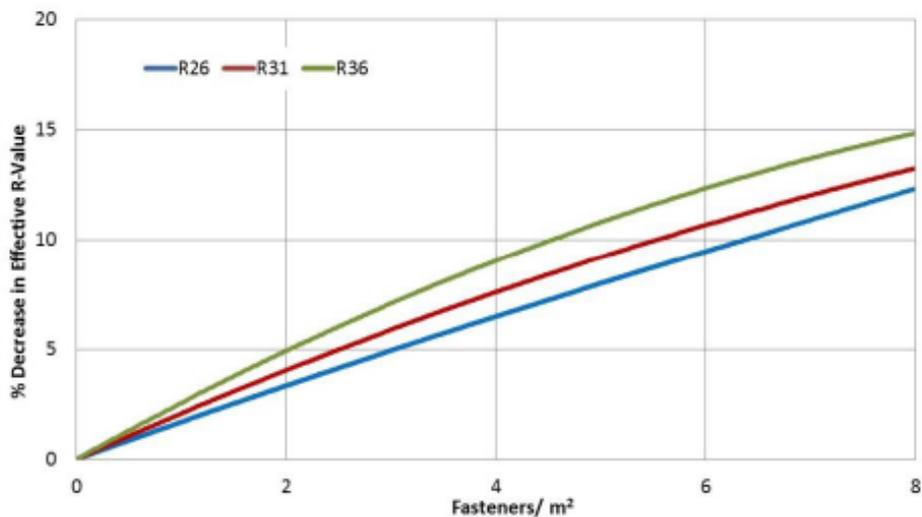
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## Test results

Tested R-values and fastener impact

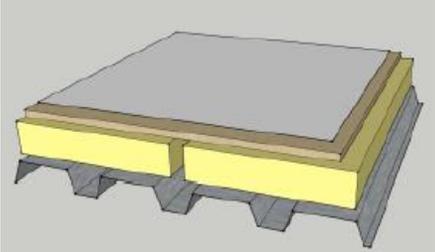
- Polyiso (R = 5.7 nominal): Tested R = 5.9 to 6.0
  - R26 with fasteners: 3 to 11 percent reduction
  - R31 with fasteners: 3 to 10 percent reduction
  - R36 with fasteners: 6 to 14 percent reduction
- EPS (R = 4.0 nominal): Tested R = 3.82 to 3.96
  - R26 with fasteners: 4 to 14 percent reduction
  - R31 with fasteners: 8 to 17 percent reduction
  - R36 with fasteners: 7 to 15 percent reduction
- Stone wool (R = 3.8 nominal): Tested R = 3.61 to 3.69
  - R26 with fasteners: 4 to 14 percent reduction
  - R31 with fasteners: 7 to 16 percent reduction
  - R36 with fasteners: 7 to 14 percent reduction

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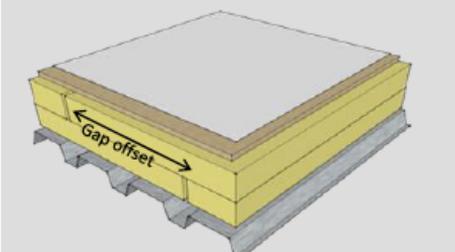
Fastener impact factor

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**Through Gap (TG):**

1. With gap width 0
2. With gap width 1/4"
3. With gap width 1/2"

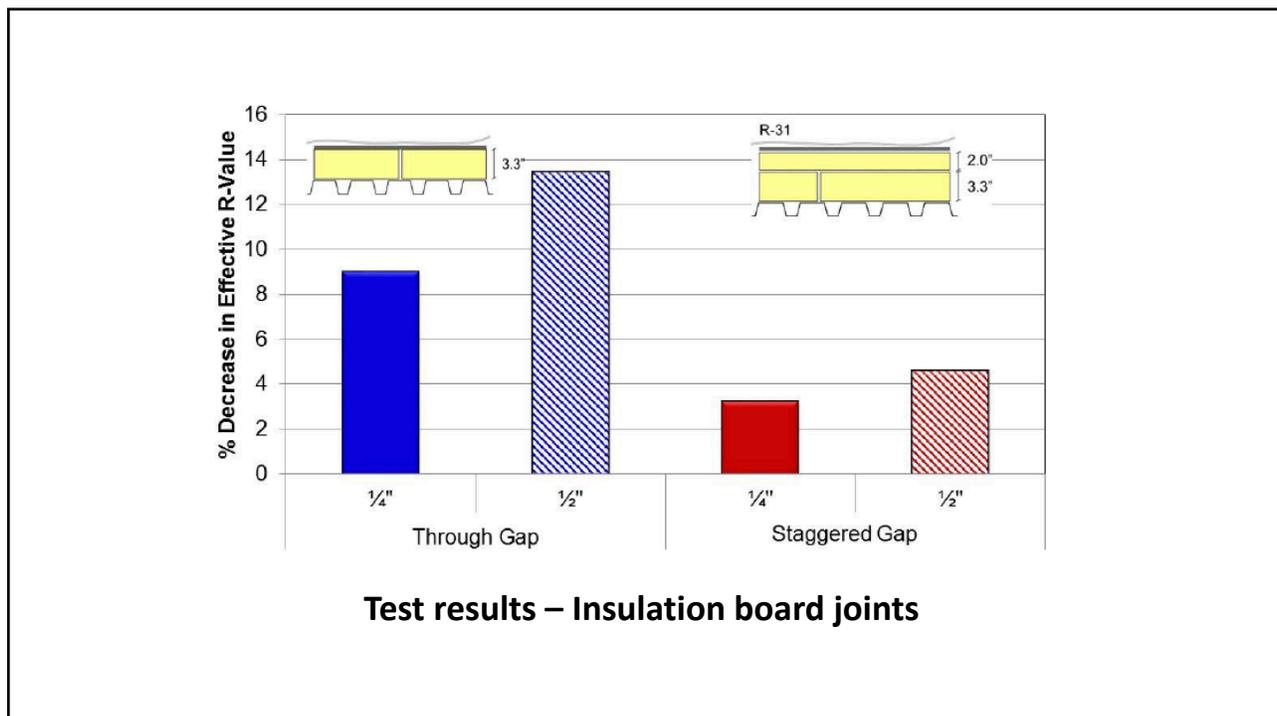


**Staggered Gap (SG):**

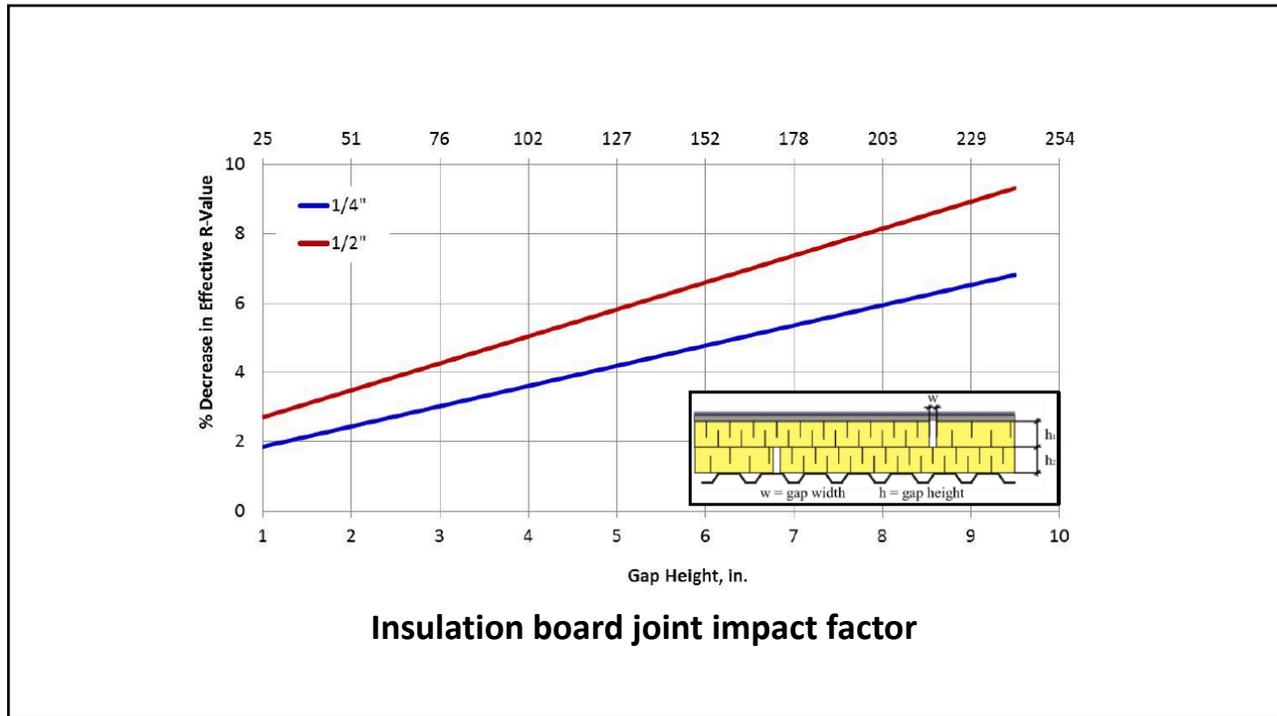
1. With gap offset 24" ( Gap width 1/4" and 1/2")
2. With gap offset 6" ( Gap width 1/2")

**Insulation board joints**

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*...the combined effect (fasteners and board joints) has been found to result in an 18-20 percent decrease in a roof assembly's effective R-value...*

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# FM Global's very severe hail (VSR) classification

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RESEARCH+TECH



**Understanding FM VSH**  
 FM has implemented a new impact-resistance classification  
 by Mark S. Graham

Commercial and industrial insurer FM Global and its code-approved testing agency subsidiaries, FM Approvals, have implemented a Very Severe Hail (VSH) impact-resistance classification that could affect some of the work you do.

**FM Global guidance:**  
 FM Global traditionally has recommended its insured building owners use moderate hail (MH) and severe hail (SH) classified roof systems for buildings located in areas FM Global considers to be susceptible to moderate or severe hail impacts. FM Loss Prevention Data Sheet L-24 (FM L-24), "Hail Damage," provides a map identifying these regions.

In recent years, the U.S. insurance industry has experienced increases in losses from hail in terms of the number of claims reported and costs of those claims. A majority of the hail damage occurs to roof systems and other rooftop components.

In the latest revision of FM L-24, dated October 2014, FM Global has identified a new VSH region, encompassing Oklahoma, Kansas and some northern counties in Texas. FM L-24 Table 3 identifies the specific northern Texas counties.

To access FM Global Data Sheets, including FM L-24—"Hail Damage," go to [www.professionalroofing.net](http://www.professionalroofing.net).

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Professional Roofing, December 2017  
[Link to access this article](#)

RESEARCH+TECH



**Designing for hail resistance**  
 Did you know FM Global has updated its hail design guidance?  
 by Mark S. Graham

March, property and building loss insurer FM Global updated its Property Loss Prevention Data Sheet L-24, "Hail Damage" (FM L-24). If you work on building insurance by FM Global, you should be aware of its latest hail resistance guidelines and the effects they may have on roof system selection and design.

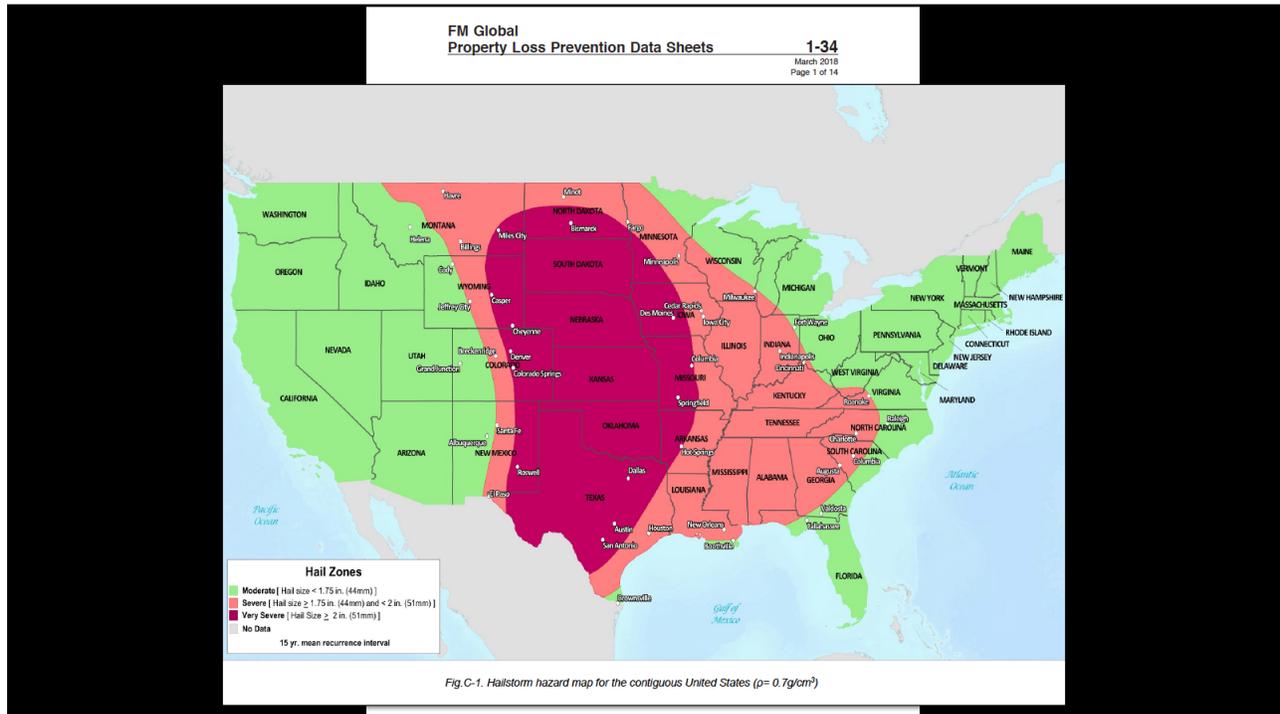
**FM L-24**  
 FM L-24 provides loss prevention guidelines to minimize the potential for hail damage to buildings, roof-mounted equipment and other outdoor equipment. FM Global updates FM L-24 and its other Property Loss Prevention Data Sheets to apply to its insured buildings. However, some designers use the Property Loss Prevention Data Sheets as design guidelines for buildings (and roof systems) other than those insured by FM Global.

FM Global considers hailstones are a widespread hazard affecting many areas of the world that can severely damage building roof systems, roofing (EVC), walls and skylights. Cooling towers and exposed glass and plastic components of outdoor equipment also can be

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[Link to access this article](#)

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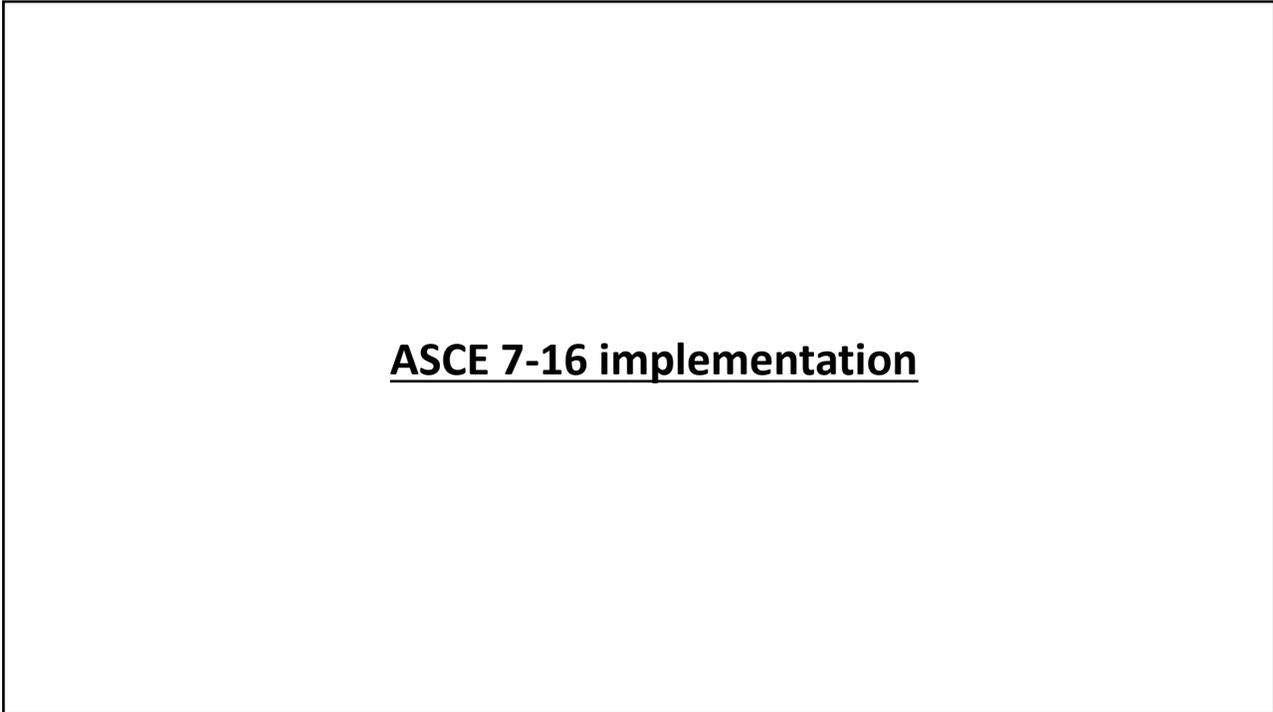


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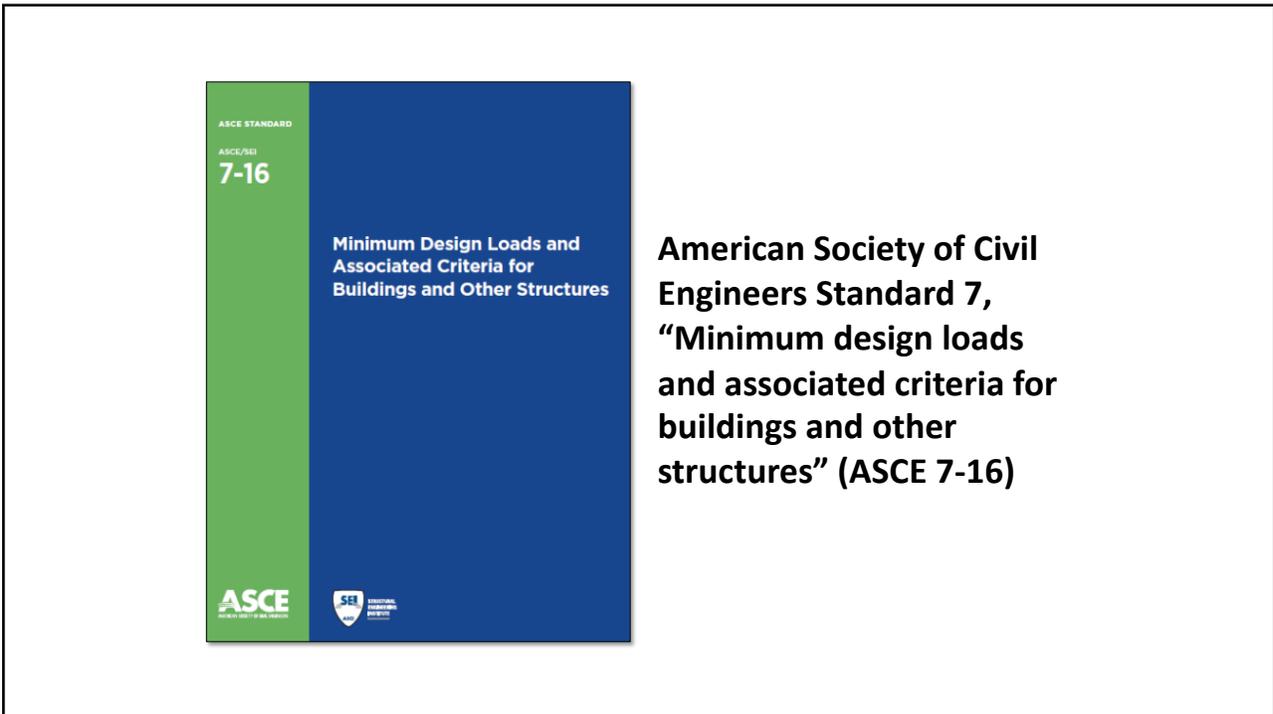
Of the 951,510 roof assemblies in FM’s RoofNav,  
only 1,745 have a VSH classification

As of February 3, 2020

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## Noteworthy changes in ASCE 7-16

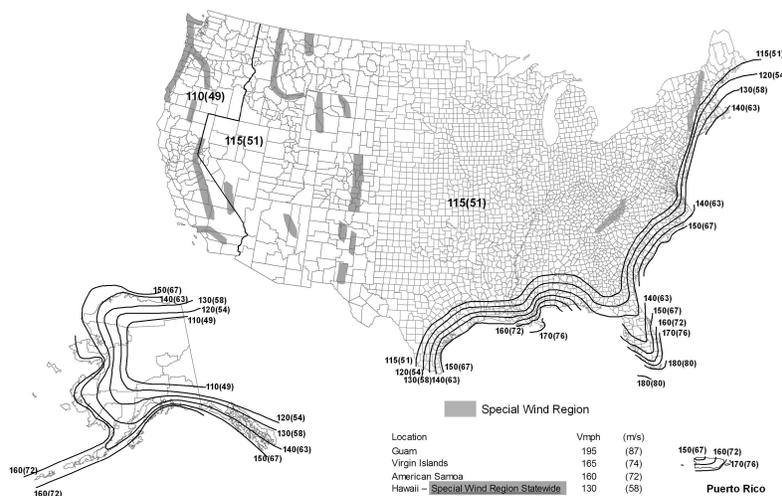
Compared to ASCE 7-10

- Revised basic wind speed map
- Changes (and new) pressure coefficients
- Revised perimeter and corner zones

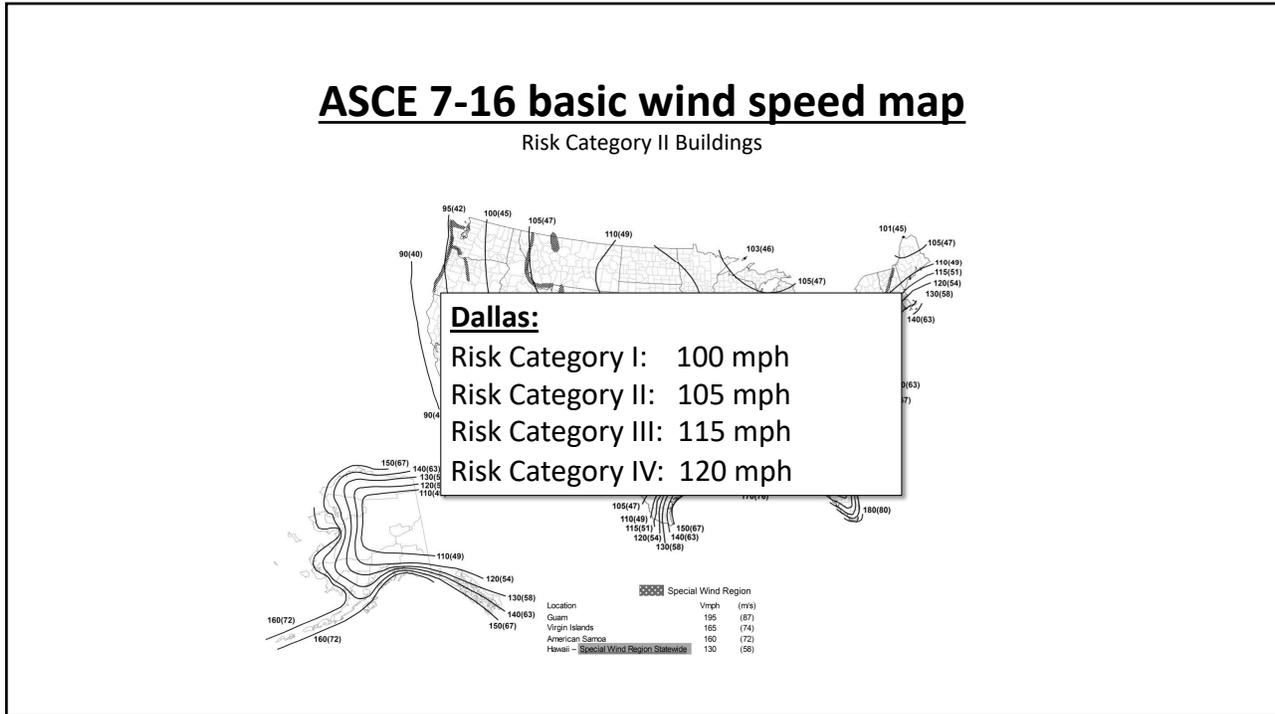
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## ASCE 7-10 basic wind speed map

Fig. 1607A-- $V_{ult}$  for Risk Category II Buildings



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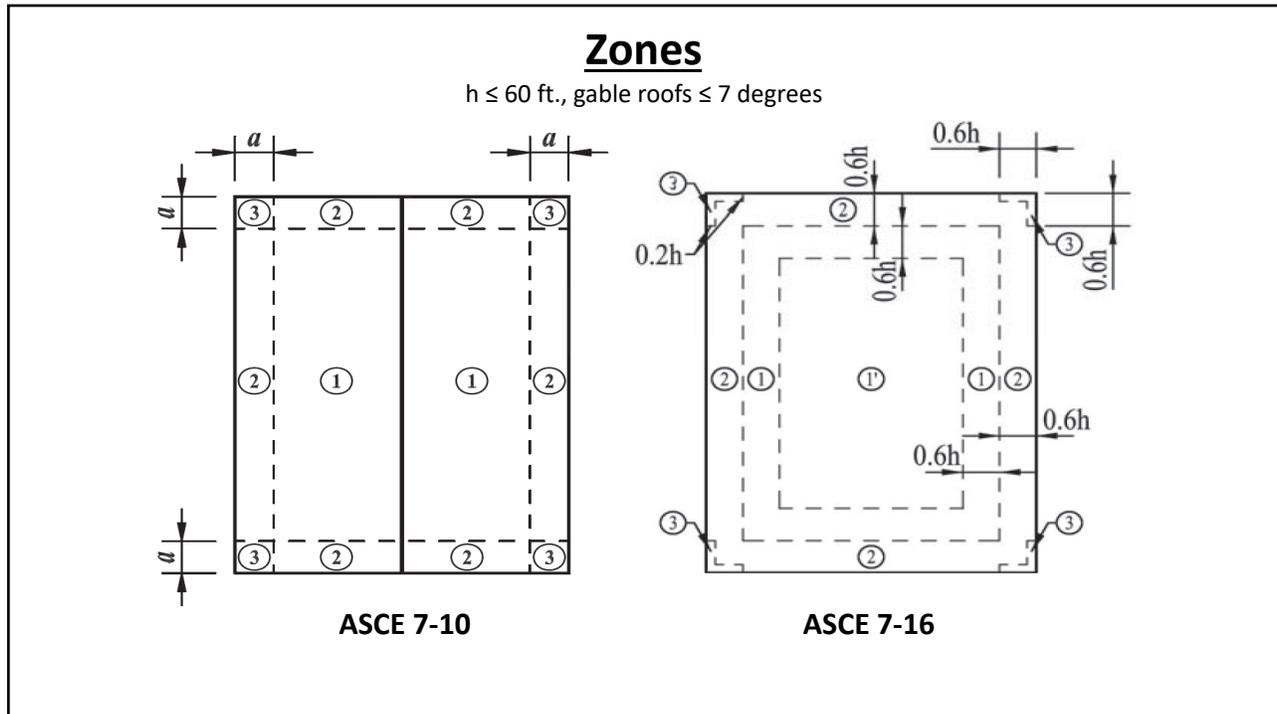
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### Comparing $GC_p$ pressure coefficients

$h \leq 60$  ft., gable roofs  $\leq 7$  degrees

Zone	ASCE 7-10	ASCE 7-16	Change
1' (center field)	n/a	0.9	-10%
1 (field)	-1.0	-1.7	+70%
2 (perimeter)	-1.8	-2.3	+28%
3 (corners)	-2.8	-3.2	+14%

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**Noteworthy changes in ASCE 7-16**  
 Compared to ASCE 7-10

- Revised basic wind speed map
- Changes (and new) pressure coefficients
- Revised perimeter and corner zones

*While center field pressures may be slightly lower, field, perimeter and corner uplift pressures will generally be greater*

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**Roof Wind Designer provides design wind loads based upon ASCE 7-16's:**

- **Part 2: Low-rise Buildings (Simplified) [h ≤ 60 ft.]**
- **Part 4: Buildings with 60 ft. < h ≤ 160 ft. (Simplified)\***

**\* Does not include hip and gable roofs h > 60 ft. and all roof slopes over 7 degrees (about 1.5:12)**

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### Comparing ASCE 7-05, ASCE 7-10 and ASCE 7-16

**Example:** A office building (Risk Category II) is located in Dallas, TX. The building is an enclosed structure with a mean roof height of 60 ft. The building is located in an open terrain area that can be categorized as Exposure Category C. An adhered, membrane roof systems is to be installed.

Document	Basic wind speed (mph)	Design wind pressure (psf)			
		Zone 1' (Center)	Zone 1 (Field)	Zone 2 (Perimeter)	Zone 3 (Corners)
ASCE 7-05	90	--	24	40	60
FM 1-28	90	--	27	46	69
ASCE 7-10 Ult.	115	--	39	65	97
ASCE 7-10 ASD	90	--	23	39	58
ASCE 7-16 Ult.	105	30	51	68	92
ASCE 7-16 ASD	90	18	31	40	55

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*This comparison illustrates why it is important for Designers to include wind design loads in their Construction Documents (per IBC Sec. 1603.1)...*

*...It also illustrate why specifying a wind warrantee can create an uneven playing field. Unless the Designer indicates the wind design loads, which design method will the manufacturer use (e.g., in a competitive environment)?*

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*FM Global has indicated they will update their Loss Prevention Data Sheet FM 1-28 and RoofNav Ratings Calculator to be based upon ASCE 7-16 (with modifications) in Feb. 2020.*

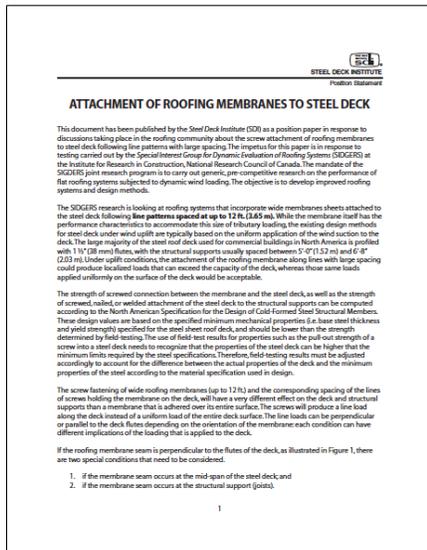
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## Steel roof decks/seam-fastened systems

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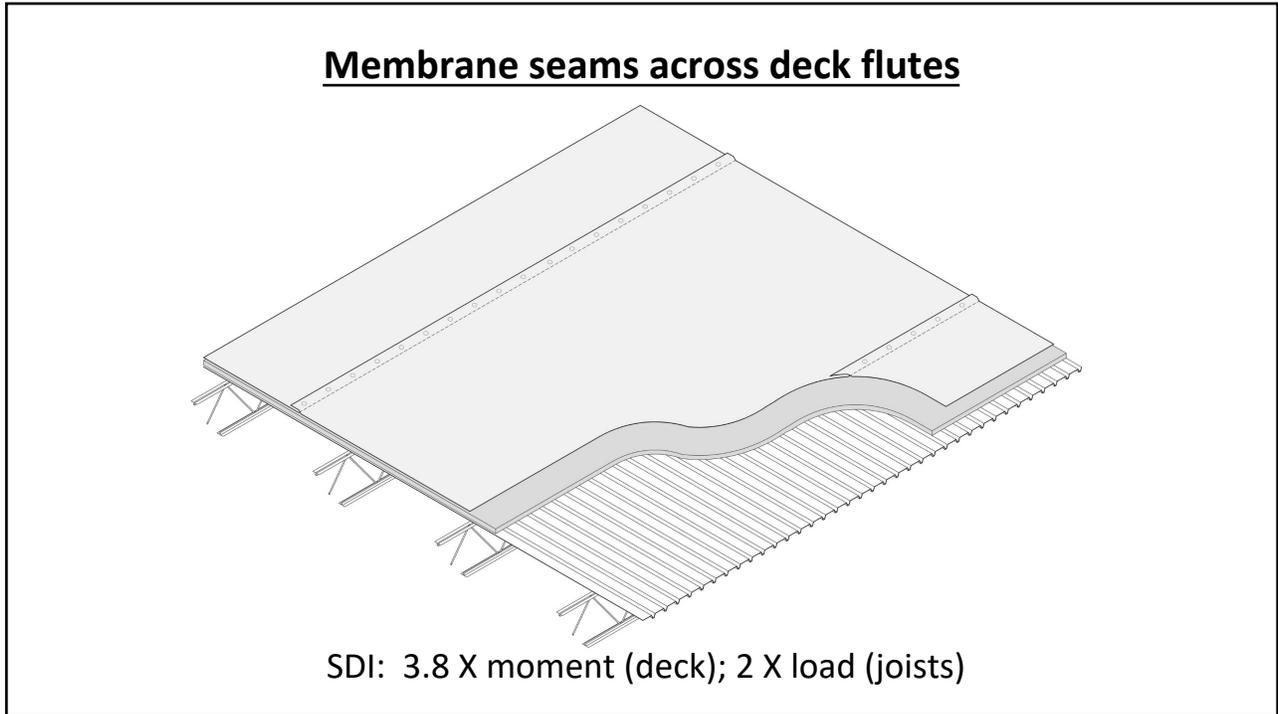
### SDI bulletin

2009

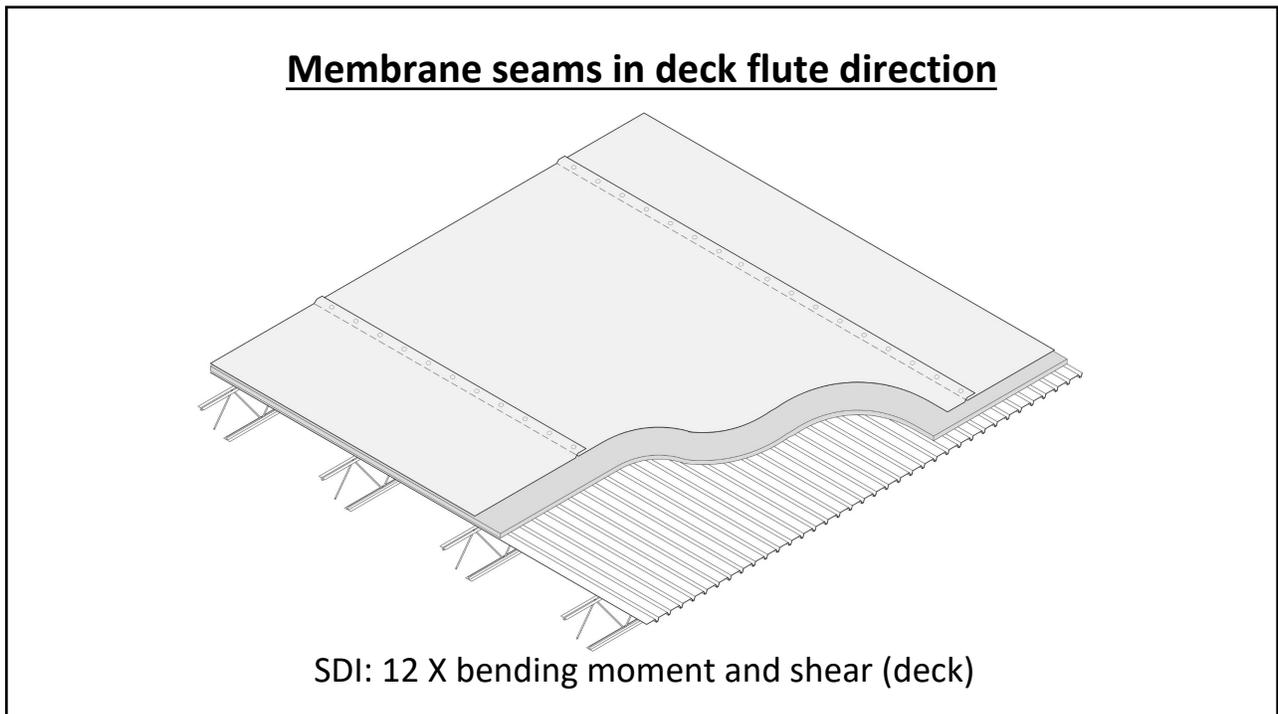


- Decks designed for joist spacing between 5' and 6' 8" o.c.
- Deck designed for uniform loading
- Seam-fastened single-line membranes are a concern

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## SDI bulletin – Conclusion

2009 bulletin

“...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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## FM Global’s Loss Prevention Data Sheet 1-29

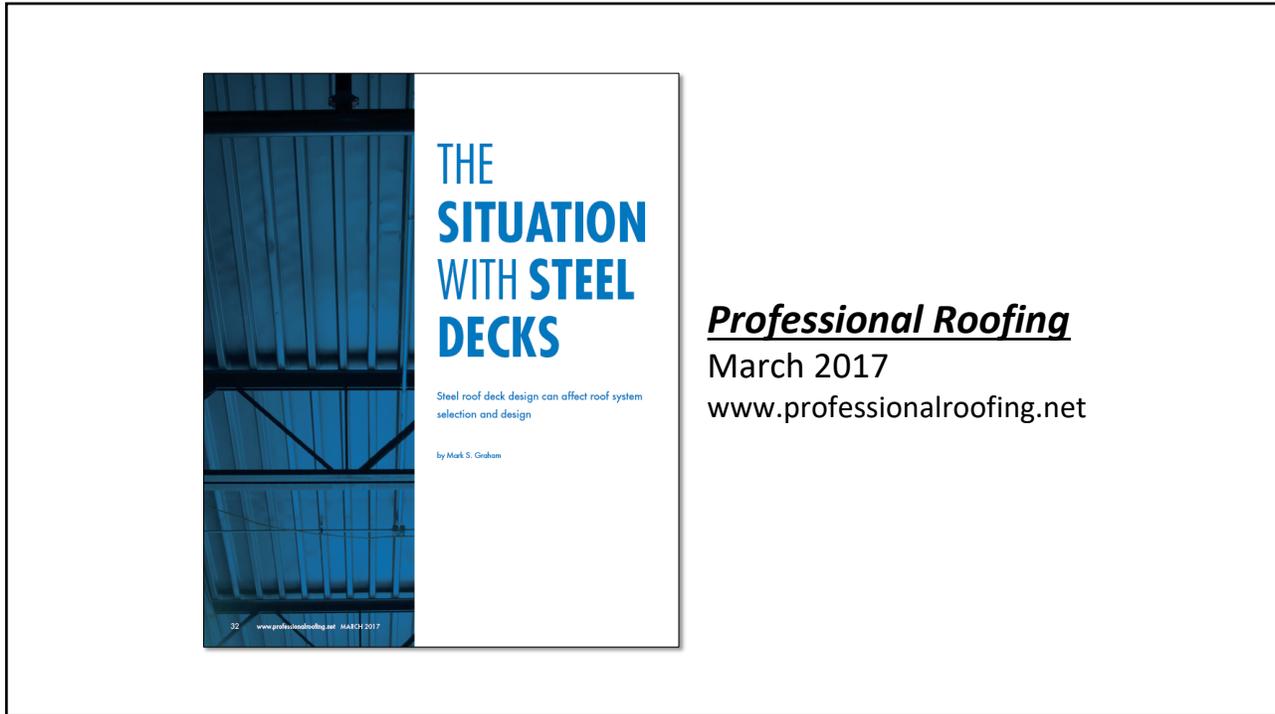
April 2016

FM Global Property Loss Prevention Data Sheets	1-29 January 2016 Issued: Revised April 2016 Page 1 of 48
<b>ROOF DECK SECUREMENT AND ABOVE-DECK ROOF COMPONENTS</b>	
Note to Insureds of Factory Mutual Insurance Company: Contact the local FM Global office before beginning any roofing work.	
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Revised/new criteria:

- Steel roof decks:
  - Uniformly-distributed loading
  - Concentrated loading
- Lightweight structural concrete

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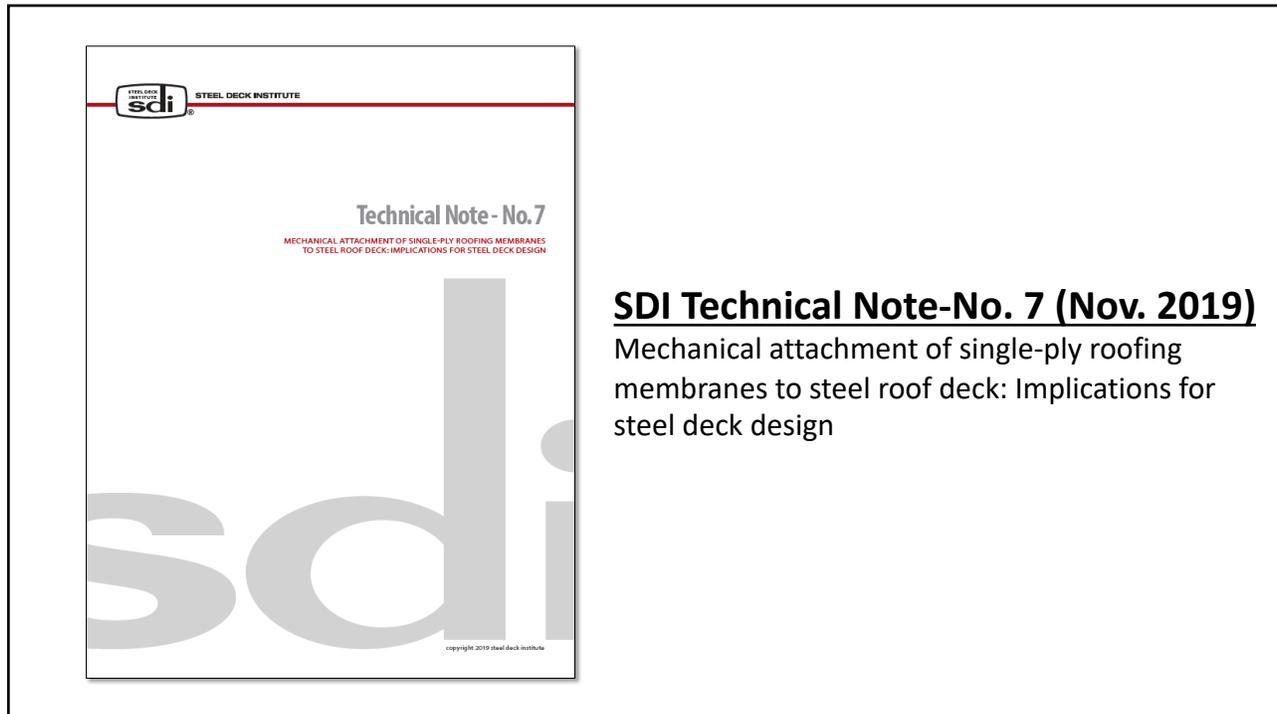


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**Fastener pull-out tests...**

*There is little correlation between fastener pull-out resistance and a steel roof deck's yield strength and uplift (bending) strength*

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## **SDI Technical Note-No. 7 (Nov. 2019)**

Mechanical attachment of single-ply roofing membranes to steel roof deck: Implications for steel deck design

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The image shows a page from the technical note, page 6. At the top, there is a header with the SDI logo on the left and 'Technical Note - No. 7' on the right. The main heading is 'Analysis of Steel Deck and Supports for Mechanically Attached Membrane Roofs'. Below this, a paragraph states: 'For both new construction, and recovering or reroofing, the following guidelines reflect generally accepted industry practice:'. This is followed by a numbered list of four guidelines. Below the list, there is a section titled 'SDI Recommendations' with a numbered list of four specific recommendations. At the bottom center of the page, the number '6' is printed.

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Technical Note - No. 7

The steel deck bending and shear strength (resistance) and strength (resistance) of the fasteners attaching the deck to the supports are calculated using the *North American Specification for the Design of Cold-Formed Steel Structural Members (ANSI S100-16)* and the *Standard for Steel Roof Deck (ANSI/SDI RD-2017)*. These design strengths are dependent on the specified minimum mechanical properties (i.e. base steel thickness, yield and ultimate strength) for the roof deck, and should be lower than the strength determined by field-testing. Results of field-tests utilized to determine strengths which are dependent on the mechanical properties of the steel deck, such as pull-out or pull-over of a screw fastened through deck, must recognize the properties of the delivered steel may exceed the minimum limits required by the steel specification. Therefore, field-test results must be adjusted.

**SDI Recommendations**

1. The SDI does not recommend the use of roofing membranes attached to the steel deck using line patterns with large spacing (spacing greater than 1/2 of the deck span) unless a structural engineer has reviewed the adequacy of the steel deck and the structural supports to resist wind uplift loads transmitted along the lines of attachment.
2. When existing buildings with steel roof deck are recovered or reroofed with a mechanically attached membrane, a competent structural engineer should be engaged to determine the limitations imposed by the existing steel deck.
3. The lines of attachment for mechanically attached membranes shall only be perpendicular to the ribs of the deck. Membranes should not be attached with lines of fasteners parallel to the deck ribs.
4. Designers should require pre-construction submittals of membrane layouts to ensure that the lines of fasteners (direction and spacing) comply with structural design assumptions. Determination of membrane layouts should not be left to the option of field crews.

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*Expect additional scrutiny of seam-fastened, mechanically-attached, single-ply membrane roof systems*

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RESEARCH+TECH



**Consider the deck**  
SDI provides additional guidance for steel roof deck designers  
by Mark S. Graham

In November 2019, the Steel Deck Institute issued new guidance for steel roof decks that feature seams-fastened, mechanically attached, single-ply membranes. Although this guidance is directed toward roof deck designers, single-ply membrane manufacturers and suppliers, roof system designers and roofing contractors also should be aware of SDI's latest guidance.

Previous guidance  
In May 2009, SDI issued a position statement, "Attachment of Roofing Membranes to Steel Decks," indicating seams-fastened, mechanically attached, single-ply membrane roof systems apply wind-uplift loads to roof decks differently than adhered membrane roof systems. Although adhered membrane roof systems apply uplift loads uniformly across a roof deck, seams-fastened membrane systems result in concentrated line loads along the deck. Such line loads can result in excess bending moment and shear applied to the deck or a doubling of uplift loads on specific structural supports (girders) depending on the orientation of the membrane sheets relative to the deck flutes and joists.  
SDI's document goes on to recommend structural engineers should review the adequacy of steel roof decks and their underlying

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## *Questions... and other topics*

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Official Show Sponsor:  NRCA  
Official Show Publication:  ROOFING CONTRACTOR

Information Classification: General

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