



***For Immediate Release***

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**ERA Submits Comment on ASHRAE Green Building Standard**

*Association Recommends Change in Application of Solar Reflectivity Index in Climate Zones*

**BETHESDA, MD., September 27, 2007** – The EPDM Roofing Association (ERA) announced it has submitted comments to the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) regarding its proposed Standard 189 “Green Construction for Low Rise Non-residential Buildings.” ERA has requested that ASHRAE change the list of Climate Zones in which buildings are required to have a Solar Reflectivity Index (SRI) of .78.

*SRI* is a value incorporating both solar reflectance and emittance to represent a material's temperature in the sun. This value quantifies how hot a surface would get relative to standard black and standard white surfaces. It is expressed as a fraction from .0 to 1.0.

The current standard requires an SRI of .78 on all building projects except in Climate Zones 7 and 8. Zone 7 covers parts of the northernmost regions of Maine, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and North Dakota. Zone 8 includes parts of Alaska. ERA has recommended that ASHRAE add Climate Zones 5 and 6 to the list of zones receiving exemptions. Zones 5 and 6 cover most of the northern regions of the United States.

“ERA applauds ASHRAE for its support of sustainability, and its efforts to provide standards to assist the roofing industry in achieving this goal,” said Michael DuCharme, Director of Product Marketing, Carlisle SynTec, and chairman of the ERA’s board of directors. “In submitting our comments, we simply want to ensure that ASHRAE consider data based on independent government analysis in creating these standards, to ensure building owners and contractors maintain flexibility in material selection while striving to achieve sustainability and energy efficiency. We look forward to cooperating with ASHRAE during this process.”

ERA summarized its reasons for requesting this change in its letter to ASHRAE: “ERA has participated in joint conferences between the U.S EPA and the U.S. DOE in an ongoing effort to determine the correct recommendation for builders, designers, and contractors in achieving ‘cool roofs’. We have also developed an educational course that



has been approved by AIA that explores the array of roofing solutions that currently exist to meet the geographic and performance needs of a given locale. These include utilizing ballasted and high thermal roofing systems to achieve the ‘cool roof’ performance. ERA supports the comments submitted by Carlisle SynTec as to the prospective energy penalty that would result in the adoption of the proposal as drafted and we also support the suggested amended language included in their submission.”

The proposed Standard 189 is designed to provide minimum guidelines for green building practices. It will apply to new commercial buildings and major renovation projects and addresses energy efficiency, a building’s impact on the atmosphere, sustainable sites, water use efficiency, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality. Its First Public Review concluded on July 9.

With more than 40 years of success as a roof system of choice for low slope applications, EPDM is the leading roofing choice of architects, roof consultants and contractors for both new construction and replacement roofing projects, with more than 20 billion square feet of EPDM roof installed on more than 500,000 warranted roofs.

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*The EPDM Roofing Association (ERA) is the first trade association solely representing the manufacturers of EPDM single-ply roofing products and their leading suppliers. ERA provides technical and research support to the public and the construction industry, and communicates the longstanding attributes, consistency and the value proposition of EPDM rubber membrane roofing materials.*