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Standard Specification for Roofing Slate¹

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^{ε1} NOTE—Section 6.1 was revised editorially in December 2006.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers the material characteristics, physical requirements, and sampling appropriate to the selection of slate for use as roof shingles.

1.2 Slates not included in this specification are those containing soft carbonaceous ribbons. The wide variation in physical properties and composition of such ribbon slates render their service life uncertain under some conditions of use.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

C 119 [Terminology Relating to Dimension Stone](#)

C 120 [Test Methods of Flexure Testing of Slate \(Breaking Load, Modulus of Rupture, Modulus of Elasticity\)](#)

C 121 [Test Method for Water Absorption of Slate](#)

C 217 [Test Method for Weather Resistance of Slate](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Definitions shall be in accordance with Terminology C 119.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard*:

3.2.1 *service life*—a period of time over which the slate material is expected to require no repair or replacement due to weathering.

3.2.2 *ribbons*—narrow bands of carbonaceous material, darker in color than the surrounding slate. These ribbons are inclusions of the original beds and are softer and less durable than the surrounding material.

4. Classification

4.1 Roofing slate shall be classified by grade in accordance with the physical requirements of Table 1, with the classification limited to the test specimen thickness, or greater thickness, as determined under Test Methods C 120. <https://standardsiteh.com/astm-c406-06e1>

4.2 When comparing slates of the same grade and equal thickness, but from various sources, slates which meet the required breaking load at the lowest specimen thickness will yield the best performance on the roof in terms of resistance to impact damage.

4.3 Expected service life of the various grades, depending on geographic location and environmental exposure, is as follows:

Grade	Service Life (years)
Grade S ₁	over 75
Grade S ₂	40 to 75
Grade S ₃	20 to 40

5. Ordering Information

5.1 *Color*—The commercial color specified should be preceded by the words “unfading” or “semi-weathering” or “weathering” to indicate the allowable change in the original slate color, over time, upon exposure on the roof.

5.2 *Standard Roofs*—Sloping roofs utilizing a nominal thickness of $\frac{3}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ in. (4.8 to 6.4 mm), are known as standard roofs. These shingles shall be rectangular unless otherwise specified. These shingles shall be machine punched or drilled for two nails located for proper headlap.

5.3 *Textural Roofs*—Sloping roofs utilizing various sizes, thicknesses, textures, and colors for architectural effects, are known as textural roofs. These shingles shall be machine punched or drilled for two nails located for proper headlap.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C18 on Dimension Stone and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C18.03 on Material Specifications.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard’s Document Summary page on the ASTM website.