



Designation: C406 – 06<sup>ε1</sup>

# Standard Specification for Roofing Slate<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C406; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

<sup>ε1</sup> 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:*<sup>2</sup>

- C119 Terminology Relating to Dimension Stone
- C120 Test Methods of Flexure Testing of Slate (Breaking Load, Modulus of Rupture, Modulus of Elasticity)
- C121 Test Method for Water Absorption of Slate
- C217 Test Method for Weather Resistance of Slate

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Definitions shall be in accordance with Terminology C119.

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 classifica-

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

TABLE 1 Physical Requirements

Classification	Breaking Load, min lbf(or N) <sup>A</sup>	Absorption, max, % <sup>B</sup>	Depth of Softening, max, in. (mm) <sup>C</sup>
Grade S <sub>1</sub>	575 (2558)	0.25	0.002 (0.05)
Grade S <sub>2</sub>	575 (2558)	0.36	0.008 (0.20)
Grade S <sub>3</sub>	575 (2558)	0.45	0.014 (0.36)

<sup>A</sup> See Test Methods C120.

<sup>B</sup> See Test Method C121.

<sup>C</sup> See Test Method C217.

tion limited to the test specimen thickness, or greater thickness, as determined under Test Methods C120.

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 <sub>1</sub>	over 75
Grade S <sub>2</sub>	40 to 75
Grade S <sub>3</sub>	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 3/16 to 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.

5.4 *Graduated Roofs*—Sloping roofs utilizing a greater range of sizes, thicknesses, and exposed lengths of shingles, are known as graduated roofs. The slates are arranged on the roof so that the thickest and longest occur at the eaves and gradually diminish in size and thickness toward the ridges.