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Standard Specification for Asphalt-Saturated Organic Felt Underlayment Used in Steep Slope Roofing¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers asphalt-saturated organic felt for use as an underlayment with steep slope roofing.

1.2 The objective of this specification is to provide a finished product that will lie flat and resist wrinkling, puckering, and shrinking when left exposed to the sun, rain, frost, or dew for a period of two weeks after application.

1.3 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with the standard.

1.4 The following safety hazards caveat pertains only to the test method portion, Section 8, of this specification: *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

[D70 Test Method for Density of Semi-Solid Bituminous Materials \(Pycnometer Method\)](#)

[D146 Test Methods for Sampling and Testing Bitumen-Saturated Felts and Woven Fabrics for Roofing and Waterproofing](#)

[D228 Test Methods for Sampling, Testing, and Analysis of Asphalt Roll Roofing, Cap Sheets, and Shingles Used in Roofing and Waterproofing](#)

[D1079 Terminology Relating to Roofing and Waterproofing](#)

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D08 on Roofing and Waterproofing and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D08.02 on Steep Roofing Products and Assemblies.

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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.

[D1922 Test Method for Propagation Tear Resistance of Plastic Film and Thin Sheeting by Pendulum Method](#)

[D6136 Test Method for Kerosine Number of Unsaturated \(Dry\) Felt by Vacuum Method](#)

[F1087 Test Method for Linear Dimensional Stability of a Gasket Material to Moisture](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms used in this specification, refer to Terminology [D1079](#).

4. Classification

4.1 Asphalt-saturated felts covered by this specification are of four types:

4.1.1 *Type I*—#8 Underlayment,

4.1.2 *Type II*—#13 Underlayment,

4.1.3 *Type III*—#20 Underlayment, and

4.1.4 *Type IV*—#26 Underlayment.

5. Materials and Manufacture

5.1 In the process of manufacture, a single thickness of organic dry felt shall be uniformly saturated with an asphaltic saturant.

5.2 The felt shall be produced principally from organic fibers. The surface of the felt shall be uniform and relatively smooth. Upon splitting or tearing on the bias, the felt shall appear free of lumps or particles of foreign substances.

6. Physical Requirements

6.1 The material shall conform to the physical requirements in accordance with [Table 1](#) and the dimensions and masses in accordance with [Table 2](#).

6.2 The finished product shall not crack nor be so sticky as to cause tearing or other damage upon being unrolled at temperatures between 0 and 60°C [32 and 140°F].

6.3 The finished product shall pass the water shower exposure test in accordance with [8.6](#), indicating resistance to liquid water transmission.

7. Workmanship, Finish, and Appearance

7.1 The felt shall be thoroughly and uniformly saturated, and shall show no unsaturated spots at any point upon cutting

TABLE 1 Physical Requirements

	Type I	Type II	Type III	Type IV
Tear strength, $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ [$73 \pm 4^\circ\text{F}$] min, N [lbf] (both cross and with direction of sheet)	2.0 [0.45]	2.0 [0.45]	4.0 [0.90]	4.0 [0.90]
Pliability at $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ [$73 \pm 4^\circ\text{F}$]. Ten strips tested shall not crack when bent 90° at a uniform speed over a rounded corner of radius in table for each type.	12.7 mm [0.50 in.]	12.7 mm [0.50 in.]	19.1 mm [0.75 in.]	19.1 mm [0.75 in.]
Loss on heating at 105°C [221°F] for 5 h max, %	6	6	6	6
Liquid water transmission test	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
MD breaking strength at $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ [$73 \pm 4^\circ\text{F}$], kN/m [lbf/in.], min	5.3 [30]	5.3 [30]	7.0 [40]	7.0 [40]
CD breaking strength at $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ [$73 \pm 4^\circ\text{F}$], kN/m [lbf/in.], min	2.6 [15]	2.6 [15]	3.5 [20]	3.5 [20]
Dimensional stability, max, % (MD and CD, ^A from Low Humidity to High Humidity)	2.00	2.00	1.75	1.75

^AMD is Machine Direction and CD is Cross Machine Direction.

TABLE 2 Dimensions and Masses

	Type I	Type II	Type III	Type IV
Width of the roll, mm [in.] ^A	914 [36] ± 0.7 %	914 [36] ± 0.7 %	914 [36] ± 0.7 %	914 [36] ± 0.7 %
Area of the roll, m ² [ft ²], ^A min	40.13 [432]	40.13 [432]	20.07 [216]	20.07 [216]
Net mass of saturated felt, g/m ² [lb/100 ft ²], min	390 [8.0]	635 [13.0]	976 [20]	1270 [26]
Net mass of saturant, g/m ² [lb/100 ft ²], min	195 [4.0]	293 [6.0]	615 [12.6]	732 [15.0]
Net mass of desaturated felt, g/m ² [lb/100 ft ²], min	195 [4.0]	244 [5.0]	439 [9.0]	488 [10.0]
Saturation, % by wt., min	100	120	140	150
Moisture, % by wt. ^B , min	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Saturating efficiency, % by wt., min	75.0	70.0	70.0	70.0

^A Other areas and widths can be provided as agreed upon by purchaser and seller.

^B At time of manufacture.

50-mm [2-in.] wide strips at random across the entire sheet and splitting them open for their full length.

7.2 The saturated felt may be surfaced lightly on one side with talc or other finely comminuted mineral material to prevent sticking in the roll.

7.3 The finished material shall be free of visible external defects, such as holes, ragged or untrue edges, breaks, cracks, tears, protuberances, and indentations.

8. Sampling and Test Methods

8.1 Sample the material in accordance with Test Method **D146** and determine the properties enumerated in this specification in accordance with Test Methods **D146**, **D228**, **D1922**, **D6136**, and **F1087** as specified below.

8.2 Determine the saturation percent of the felt in accordance with Test Method **D146**, Section 19 (Bituminous Saturant), and the saturating efficiency of the desaturated (dry) felt by the following method:

8.2.1 Calculate the percent of asphalt saturation by dividing the mass of the asphalt saturant by the mass of the desaturated (dry) felt and multiply the result by 100.

8.2.2 Determine the kerosine number of the desaturated (dry) felt in accordance with Test Method **D6136**.

8.2.3 Calculate the saturation efficiency of the felt by dividing the percent saturation of the asphalt saturated felt by the kerosine number times the specific gravity of the saturant

and multiply the result by 100. A suitable method for determining the specific gravity of the bitumen is Test Method **D70**.

8.2.4 The precision and bias of this method for measuring kerosine value are as specified in Test Method **D6136**, Section 12 (Precision and Bias).

8.3 Determine the tear strength according to Test Method **D1922** modified to use rectangular samples that measure 76 by 63 mm [3 by 2.5 in.] ± 3 %. Condition specimens at $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ [$73 \pm 4^\circ\text{F}$] for at least 2 h prior to testing and conduct tests at $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ [$73 \pm 4^\circ\text{F}$]. Use an Elmendorf Tear Strength Tester with a 1600 g full scale capacity.

8.4 Determine the pliability in accordance with Test Method **D146**, Section 14.

8.5 Determine the loss on heating of felt in accordance with Test Method **D146**, Section 15.

8.6 Determine the resistance to liquid water transmission by the following test method:

8.6.1 *Scope*—The purpose of this test method is to indicate the resistance of the material to transmission of liquid water and visible deterioration by observation of the material after a water shower is impinged for 4 h on an inclined plane typical of the lowest acceptable steep slope roof deck.

8.6.2 *Significance and Use*—This test method measures the ability of the underlayment to resist the transmission of liquid water and visible deterioration by the action of water and,