Materials guide changes

by **Mark S. Graham**

NRCA's roofing materials guides offer valuable information for roofing professionals, including detailed product listings, which can help roofing professionals compare products. In January, NRCA's *2001-02 Low-slope Roofing Materials Guide* was published with a number of notable changes, some of which follow.

What's new

The guide now consists of 834 pages—a 23 percent increase from the previous edition, which was published in 2000. A majority of the increase is attributable to additional product listings in the roof coverings section.

Information regarding specific built-up roof membrane ply sheets also has been added. A summary of data in this section is listed in the figure.

The rigid board insulation section has been reformatted to provide more detailed information for specific insulation types. Information is based on applicable material standards for cellular glass, expanded and extruded polystyrene, fiberglass, glass mat-faced gypsum, perlite, polyisocyanurate, wood fiberboard and composite insulation boards. The roof cements, adhesives and coatings section also has been reformatted to provide additional information regarding these products' applicable material standards.

Incomplete data

Although NRCA encourages product manufacturers to provide product listing information that is as complete as possible in the prescribed format, guide users have noted some manufacturers provide less-than-complete product information.

Low-slope roof covering data

Product type	Number of manufacturers	Number of products	Number of specifications
Built-up	18	117	255
Modified bitumen	31	405	2,107
PVC	9	37	N/A
EPDM	10	81	N/A
CSPE	4	5	N/A
PIB	2	3	N/A
TPO	6	15	N/A
Other single-plies	12	42	N/A
Spray polyurethane foam:			
Roof systems	4	15	N/A
Coatings	15	83	N/A
Metal panels	23	96	N/A
Cements/coatings	26	315	N/A

Note: *Data were collected from 132 roofing materials manufacturers.*

A summary of roof covering data from NRCA's 2001-02 Low-slope Roofing Materials Guide.

For the 2001-02 guide, manufacturers' product information that has been deemed by NRCA to be incomplete is omitted from the guide's detailed listing sections.

Products with incomplete listing information now are included in a new section, Incomplete Data. Thirty-five products from nine manufacturers are included in this section as are 12 manufacturers that did not provide roof membrane warranty information.

NRCA encourages specifiers who are considering specifying products included in the guide's Incomplete Data section to contact the products' manufacturers for complete product information. The information then can be compared with that of similar products listed in the guide.

Future editions

Beginning with the 2001-02 guide, NRCA will publish the low-slope guide and its companion publication, *Steep-slope Roofing Materials Guide*, in alternating years.

In January 2002, an updated edition of the steep-slope guide will be published. The next edition of the low-slope guide will be published in January 2003.

NRCA's materials guides are available from NRCA's Marketing Services Department by calling (800) 323-9545 or (847) 299-9070; faxing (847) 299-1183; or accessing NRCA's Web site, www.nrca.net. The guides also are available in CD-ROM format.

Mark S. Graham is NRCA's associate executive director of technical services.

