



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 classifica-

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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.

TABLE 1 Physical Requirements

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

^A See Test Methods C 120.

^B See Test Method C 121.

^C See Test Method C 217.

tion limited to the test specimen thickness, or greater thickness, as determined under Test Methods C 120.

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 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.

These shingles shall be machine punched or drilled for two nails located for proper headlap.

6. Physical Requirements

6.1 Slate supplied under this specification shall conform to the physical requirements listed in **Table 1** and be no thinner than the thickness of the average of the test samples reported under Test Methods **C 120**.

6.2 Slates with broken corners on the exposed ends shall not be installed when either the base or leg of the right triangular piece broken off is greater than 1½ in. (38 mm). Slates with broken corners are acceptable for cutting stock.

6.3 The curvature of shingles shall not exceed ⅛ in. in 12 in. (3 mm in 305 mm). Curved slate shall be sheared and punched to permit it to be laid with the convex side up.

6.4 “Knots” and “knurls” are rounded defects, which affect the smoothness of split. They are acceptable on the exposed

portion of the top face but on other parts will prevent close contact of shingles. Shingles having knots or knurls on the covered portions projecting in excess of ⅛ in. (1.5 mm) shall not be used if they prevent proper fit and contact.

6.5 Slate shall be free from ribbons.

6.6 Not more than 1 % of broken slates, including those having cracks materially precluding ringing when sounded, shall be accepted.

6.7 Face dimensions shall not differ from those specified by more than ⅛ in. (3 mm).

6.8 Slates shall be trimmed with right angle corners, square to within ⅛ in. in 12 in. (3 mm in 305 mm).

7. Sampling

7.1 Samples for testing of characteristics and physical properties, if required, shall be representative of the slate to be used.

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