

## **Winds of Change for Roofing Slate Testing**

**By David Large**

**After six years of deliberation, and with the assistance of the National Slate Association, ASTM International's C18 Dimension Stone Committee has now completed their comprehensive overhaul of ASTM C120 Standard Test Methods of Flexure Testing of Slate and C406 Standard Specification for Roofing Slate. The remaining pieces of the puzzle were approved in time to make the November 2006 Annual Book of ASTM Standards.**

**The final revisions include the changes that were pending and reported at the time of our association's last newsletter. Specifically, C120 Breaking Load test results are now valid for a specific slate thickness or greater only, with a minimum thickness of 3/16". The specimen dimension sizes have changed from 4" x 4" to 5" x 4" to avoid incorrect orientation of the specimen in the test stand and instructions are given to make sure the specimen is inserted accurately into the stand. The revised C406 Standard Specification for Roofing Slate reflects the required "slate supply" thickness in order for test results to be valid, and stipulates tolerances for right angle corners of roofing slate.**

**The C18 committee has also recently modified or re-approved some of their other ASTM Test Method and Terminology documents. At the time of writing, the approved ASTM documents related to roofing slate are C406-06, C120-06e1, C121-06, C217-94 (2004), C99-87 (2006) and C119-06.**

**ASTM will continue to evaluate C120 Standard Test Methods of Flexure Testing of Slate from time to time. It is my hope that our industry can live with this current edition for some time to come and that this will be my last newsletter article on the matter...completing the Winds of Change trilogy.**

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