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Knowles Takes Helm as Benedict Retires

Mason Knowles became Executive Director of the Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance (SPFA) in March 2002, upon the retirement of Dan Benedict.

Benedict had joined the organization in 1989 when it was known as the Polyurethane Foam Contractors Division of the Society of the Plastics Industry (SPI) and became Director of the group upon the retirement of George Sievert in 1995.

Mason Knowles, left, new Executive Director of SPFA, wishes Dan Benedict well on his retirement from that post.

Under Benedict's direction and leadership, the SPF industry achieved tremendous growth and gained considerable respect. Benedict brought a contractor's experience to the job that enabled him to identify key issues and take appropriate action. SPFA-sponsored research and educational programs helped demonstrate the performance characteristics of SPF applications and trained the industry to correctly specify, inspect, and install systems. His consensus building and networking efforts enabled the SPF industry to gain greater recognition and cooperation from other trade groups. Benedict helped to develop working committees that represent the entire SPF industry, from roofing to insulation to sealants and adhesives, including suppliers, contractors, chemical producers, equipment manufacturers, inspection companies, and other service oriented businesses. These committees produced dozens of technical documents, research projects, educational courses, and promotional tools that have enabled the SPF industry to prosper. Benedict encouraged the industry to participate in standard and code making bodies. Several new SPF-related ASTM standards have been developed in the last seven years, and SPFA influenced many state and federal regulations and code initiatives that affected SPF applications.

Prior to his appointment as Executive Director, Mason Knowles was the Technical Director of the SPFA and also recently served as the Technical Director of the American Plastics Council (APC) on building and construction issues. Knowles' industry assignments included review of government, regulatory, and building code issues, presentations and articles on technology related to the SPF industry, and coordination of selected industry research projects. He is a member of ASTM and chairman of its D-08.06 Subcommittee on Spray Polyurethane Foam Roofing Systems. He is also ASTM Task Group Chairman for the revision of ASTM C-1029, "Standard Specification for Spray Applied Cellular Polyurethane Insulation."

Melvin Stumler Elected Chairman

Mason Knowles, left, congratulates Melvin Stumler upon his ascendancy to Chairman of the SPFA.

Melvin Stumler, President and founder of Insulated Roofing Contractors, a division of Urethane of Kentuckiana, was recently elected to a two-year term as Chairman of the SPFA.

Stumler has been personally involved in and supported the spray foam industry and its organizations, alliances, and committees since its inception in the early '70s. Insulated Roofing Contractors is one of the initial spray foam contractors to successfully complete all the requirements for accreditation in the SPI/PFCD. Stumler established Insulated Roofing Contractors in 1972.

PDATE

New Standards Approved

ASTM D-6705, "Standard Guide for the Repair and Recoat of Sprayed Polyurethane Foam Roofing Systems," has been approved and published. The new standard outlines general procedures and precautions necessary for correct and safe repair and recoat of SPF roofing systems. The guide includes inspection procedures as well as repair and recoat recommendations. The new standard is designed as a tool for specifiers, building owners, and applicators to evaluate both new and existing SPF roofing systems.

Another recently-enacted standard is ASTM D-6694, "Standard Specification for Liquid-Applied Silicone Coating Used in Spray Polyurethane Foam Roofing." As the title states, this standard describes performance properties of silicone coatings used in SPF roofing applications.

Other new standards in the works are an SPF re-roofing standard, a standard practice for sampling SPF roofing systems, and a standard specification for SPF used in roofing.

The standard specification for SPF is ASTM C-1029. It has been balloted for revision. There are a few negative comments to address before it can be approved.

ICBO Acceptance Criteria 12 Revised

At a meeting in Los Angeles, CA, on January 9, 2002, the ICBO Evaluation Services Committee voted to revise ICBO Acceptance Criteria 12.

Mason Knowles, Executive Director of SPFA, and SPFA member Ron Whipple of SWD Urethane Co., Mesa, AZ, coordinated the successful effort to postpone the implementation of portions of ICBO Acceptance Criteria 12, "Foam Plastic Insulation," until January 1, 2003. A table was also added in the ICBO Acceptance Criteria listing tests and minimum physical properties appropriate to specific SPF applications for roofing, insulation, sealant, and air barrier foams. Section 2.4.3 of AC 12, "Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF)," required testing of SPF systems by ICBO-accredited laboratories according to criteria described in ASTM C-1029. Knowles and Whipple testified that implementation of AC 12 without the suggested revisions would place a burden on the SPF industry for the following reasons:

1. Test data developed would be meaningless within one to two years because all SPF systems will be reformulated to comply with EPA regulations.
2. ASTM C-1029 is outdated and is currently undergoing significant revision.
3. Some test data required would not be meaningful to the specific application.

SPFA Receives EPA Grant to Study New SPF Systems

EPA approved a three-year, $375,000 grant to SPFA to study next generation SPF formulations. The grant has the overriding goal of assisting the SPF industry to safely transition from HCFC-141b blowing agent technology to alternative technologies in order to avoid unnecessary emissions and new production of HCFC-141b.

The specific goal of the grant is to provide system houses, contractors, and other members of the public with information on field applications and the physical properties of foam produced with next generation SPF systems. This information will provide systems houses with basic information that will allow them to more efficiently develop new formulations. It will also provide guidance to field applicators using new formulations.

The program would consist of three parts: field evaluation, reporting, and outreach. Field evaluation would consist of applying or inspecting SPF systems in various geographic regions of the country and evaluating the results of each application and the physical properties of the foam produced.

Upon completion of field trials and inspections, SPFA would develop reports that include an overview of the results and the following:

- Field Monitoring Report on applications, equipment settings, climate, special conditions, unique observations, etc.
- Field Inspection Report detailing observations of the condition of the SPF, including blistering, coating and foam adhesion, cell structure, roof conditions, etc.
- Laboratory Report on physical properties of SPF, including density and compressive strength. Depending on industry resources, lab reports could also include dimensional stability and R-value.

The specific field trial and inspection results of each system would be provided only to the respective participating system house. At the end of the study, a generic compilation of results would be available to the public.

SPFA will also conduct outreach programs to present the status of field evaluations and SPF industry efforts to transition to non-ozone-depleting, next-generation blowing agents at industry- and EPA-sponsored meetings. Guidance documents for system houses and applicators on the use of next generation blowing agent SPF formulas would also be presented as part of the study.

Fifteen systems houses are participating in the program. SPFA expects to conduct approximately a dozen inspection and monitoring trips and supply more than 250 samples for laboratory analysis by September 2002. For more information, contact Mason Knowles, 800-523-6154. ■

New Website Gives Asphalt Shingle Recycling Info

The web address www.shinglerecycling.org is a recently launched site that provides all known information about asphalt shingle recycling, including data on contaminant issues, processing techniques, end markets, and contact information for state regulatory officials responsible for overseeing the practice. The site, developed by the Construction Materials Recycling Association (CMRA) under a grant from U.S. EPA Region 5 and hosted by the National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA), also includes comprehensive listings of literature, studies, reports, and other documents on asphalt shingle recycling.

"More than 11 million tons of waste asphalt shingles are generated in the U.S. every year, and this website will provide the information needed to answer the questions surrounding the processing and re-use of this resource," said Paul Ruesch, environmental engineer with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Not only will recycling shingles save our natural resources, but it will provide environmentally friendly jobs in businesses that provide communities a tax base."

William Turley, Executive Director, CMRA, said, "The shingles themselves contain valuable bitumen and a aggregate product that works well in a variety of end products, especially in the paving industry. In the past, so much of this valuable resource has been thrown away. With this webpage, we hope to support the growing movement toward recycling asphalt shingles."

The webpage, which can also be accessed through www.shinglerecycling.net, has five main sections: Markets, Literature, Environmental and Permitting Issues, State Experience, and Links.

Markets describes many of the various end uses for recycled asphalt shingles, including hot mix asphalt, cold patch for asphalt pavements, dust control on gravel roads, temporary roads, driveways, aggregate base, new shingles, and fuel.

Literature is broken into three parts: technical reports, magazine and journal articles, and web links.

Under **Environmental and Permitting Issues** are answers to questions about contaminants, especially regarding the occasional trace amounts of asbestos in waste shingles, including a list of state regulatory contracts, an overview of asbestos issues and regulations, current information of the presence of asbestos in asphalt shingles, and a case study of successful shingle recycling in Maine.

State Experience gives background on eight states' histories using recycled asphalt shingles and provides web links to their own reports.

The **Links** section provides direct web links to other websites that offer insight to asphalt shingle recycling.

The webpage will remain a living document that will be updated regularly, especially as new information becomes available. "We are looking for more lab tests for asbestos on waste shingles from tear-offs and demolition projects," said Turley of the CMRA. "We want to continue to expand that section, as well as the literature section. Currently, the test results show little if any asbestos in the shingles, but we recognize questions remain among people not familiar with the industry that contaminants are common in the shingles. We want to prove that point one way or the other through more test results provided from recyclers across the country and will work to gather more of these results as they become available. The results we have gathered so far are encouraging as there seems to be little asbestos in the waste shingle waste stream."

The CMRA will handle the collection of the test results and can be contacted at 630-548-4510. In addition, the CMRA will have available, for a slight fee, copies of the original results as submitted by the testing labs.