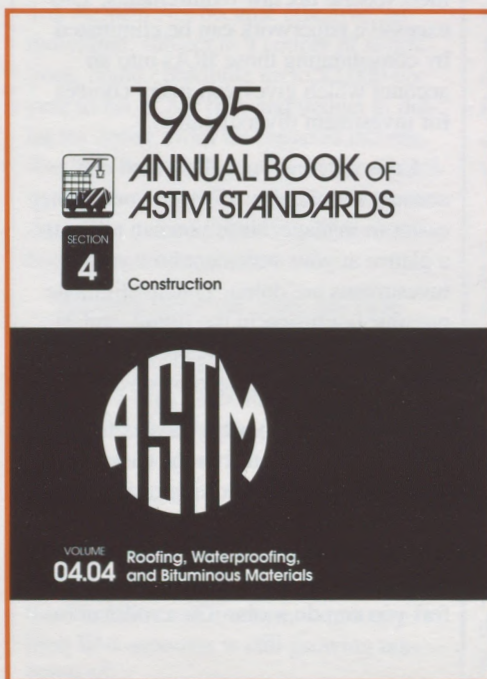


## ASTM and Roof Consultants

By Bruce Wittenbaum • President, Achievement Industries, Inc. • Cincinnati, Ohio

**A**re you a roof consultant? Are you a member of ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)? If you answered YES to the first question, but NO to the second, have I got a deal for you! For annual dues of \$65, you can become an ASTM member and receive at no additional cost one ASTM volume of standards. It is almost impossible to write specifications for roof projects without using ASTM standards or test methods to aid in defining the requirements. A specification writer needs those volumes containing the applicable standards of practice. Nearly all of the volumes cost members more than \$65 each, and some cost well over \$100. As a member, you receive one free volume each year with your dues. In addition, ASTM publishes a monthly magazine which is also free to members. What a deal! You pay \$65 and receive a gift of greater value, so do not delay a minute longer in joining.

I hope this is not news to you and that you are already a member. If so, are you active in ASTM committees? ASTM is composed of all types of members with their own vested interests. They come together to create standards on a consensus basis. I personally feel there is a lack of members in the user category. Roof consultants are users because they write project specifications where products and services are used. Most of their clients (property owners and managers) cannot spend the time to participate in ASTM standards creation. Many engineering service professionals — including roofing consultants — do not spend the time. In any case, who can afford to travel at



*ASTM's standards are required reading for consultants; each ASTM member receives one volume free of charge. The new editions are due this spring.*

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great cost in dollars and time to be an active participant in ASTM committees? From my observation, it is usually those persons who have something substantial to gain. Manufacturers are generally well represented, but there seems to be scant representation of users' interests. I do not want to give the impression that those users currently active are lacking, ineffective, or overpowered. On the contrary, they should be commended and given more support.

The important point here is this: Members are not required to attend meetings in order to participate in the standards making process; it can all be done by mail. You determine when and how much time to spend with the process. You can be active to the utmost or just monitor one thing. However, if you are a roof consultant, you should participate in ASTM if only to acquire a free standards volume. If you enjoy watching a battle of competing interests or wish to join the fight, you will not be disappointed in ASTM's committees. Active participation sharpens your skills and keeps you well informed about current issues.

**For further reading . . .**

Smith, Darrell, "ASTM: How it Can Benefit the Roofing Consultant", *Interface*, March/April 1995, pg. 13.

**For more information . . .**

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