



Standard Practice for Estimation of Heat Gain or Loss Through Ceilings Under Attics Containing Radiant Barriers by Use of a Computer Program¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C 1340; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the estimation of heat gain or loss through ceilings under attics containing radiant barriers by use of a computer program. The computer program included as an adjunct to this practice provides a calculational procedure for estimating the heat loss or gain through the ceiling under an attic containing a truss or rafter mounted radiant barrier. The program also is applicable to the estimation of heat loss or gain through ceilings under an attic without a radiant barrier. This procedure utilizes hour-by-hour weather data to estimate the hour-by-hour ceiling heat flows. The interior of the house below the ceiling is assumed to be maintained at a constant temperature. At present, the procedure is applicable to sloped-roof attics with rectangular floor plans having an unshaded gabled roof, a horizontal ceiling, and no HVAC ducts in the attic. It is not applicable to structures with flat roofs, vaulted ceilings, or cathedral ceilings. The calculational accuracy also is limited by the quality of physical property data for the construction materials, principally the insulation and the radiant barrier, and by the quality of the weather data.

1.2 Under some circumstances, interactions between radiant barriers and HVAC ducts in attics can have a significant effect on the thermal performance of a building. When analysis of these interactions is completed they will be added to the computer program.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

C 168 Terminology Relating to Thermal Insulating Materials²

2.2 ANSI Standards:

X3.5 Flow Chart Symbols and Their Usage in Information Processing³

X3.9 Standard for Fortran Programming Language³

2.3 ASTM Adjuncts:

Computer Program for Estimation of Heat Gain or Loss through Ceilings Under Attics Containing Radiant Barriers⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms used in this practice, refer to Terminology C 168.

3.2 *Symbols*—Symbols will be introduced and defined in the detailed description of the development.

4. Summary of Practice

4.1 The procedures used in this practice are based on the thermal response factor method for calculating dynamic heat conduction through multilayer slabs **(1,2)**,⁵ along with a model for convective and radiative heat exchanges inside and outside the attic.

4.2 The operation of the computer program involves the following steps:

4.2.1 *Response Factors*—A separate computer program must be used to calculate the thermal response factors of the solid materials surrounding the attic. Input to this program would consist of the thermal conductivity, specific heat, density, and thickness of each layer, or the thermal resistance of the layer if it has negligible density, and the fraction of the cross-sectional area occupied by the framing. Output of such a program would be a set of response factors for use as input to the main program. The adjunct to this practice contains data files with response factors for several typical attic constructions.

4.2.2 *Data Input to the Main Program*—This input includes the response factors, total hemispherical emittances of the inside and outside surfaces of the attic envelope, solar absorptances of the outside surfaces of the attic envelope, length and width of the attic, slopes of the two roof sections, distance between attic floor and roof at edge of attic, orientation of house, vent areas and type of vents, water vapor permeances of attic surfaces, area of exposed wood inside attic, mass of wood in attic, initial moisture content of wood in attic, rate of

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C16 on Thermal Insulation and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C16.21 on Reflective Insulation.

Current edition approved June 10, 1999. Published August 2001.

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.06.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute, 11 W. 42nd St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

⁴ Available from ASTM Headquarters. Request Adjunct: ADJC1340.

⁵ The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to the list of references at the end of this standard.