



Designation: D7851 – 17

Standard Guide for Design of Sustainable, Low-Slope Roofing Systems¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7851; 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 guide provides guidance and considerations related to designing sustainable low-sloped roofing systems, including exposed membrane roofs, membranes covered with vegetative (green) overburden systems, ballasted roofs, and protected membrane roofing assemblies. A sustainable roofing system minimizes environmental impact, conserves energy, and has maximized service life.

1.2 The primary purpose of a roofing system is to weather-proof the building's top surface. Implementing a sustainable roofing system is the intent of this guide.

1.3 This guide acknowledges that many factors outside the designer's control affect the longevity of a roofing system. The designer may rely on industry literature (X1.1) and personal experience with roofing systems to estimate the design life.

1.4 The premise of this guide is to focus attention on environmental and other factors that may affect the roofing system over its service life. By considering these factors and incorporating into the roofing system design certain features that mitigate these factors and their potential adverse effects on the roofing system, the roofing system would be expected to have a longer service life.

1.5 This guide includes materials used in roofing systems under jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D08 on Roofing and Waterproofing. The applicability of this guide to other systems and materials has not been determined.

1.6 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D08 on Roofing and Waterproofing and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D08.24 on Sustainability.

Current edition approved Feb. 1, 2017. Published February 2017. DOI: 10.1520/D7158_D7158M-17.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

D1079 Terminology Relating to Roofing and Waterproofing

3. Terminology

3.1 *General*—Terms used in this guide are defined in Terminology D1079, except as defined below.

3.2 *Definitions:*

3.2.1 *design life*—the planned period of time during which the roofing system is expected by its designer to reliably perform its required functions, with minimal unplanned intervention.

3.2.2 *durability*—the ability of the roofing system to perform its required functions over a period of time within the environment for which it is designed and exposed.

3.2.3 *service life*—the period of time after installation during which a roofing system performs its required function(s) with minimal unplanned intervention.

4. Summary of Guide

NOTE 1—The sustainable roofing system design process consists of the following, sequential steps:

4.1 *Identification of Roofing System Demands, Functional Expectations, and Site Constraints*—The designer should determine factors, loads, and stresses that the roofing system must withstand as well as the impacts the roofing system may have on the environment the building interacts with. These factors apply limiting constraints for system and material selection and the associated installation process. There are also options for sustainable strategies and site and use constraints that will define the feasibility of sustainable strategies (for example, availability of sunlight for photovoltaic arrays).

4.2 *Determination of In-Service Performance Criteria and Functional Expectations*—The designer determines performance criteria and functional expectations of the roofing

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.