



Building Code Changes & PVC Roof Deck Membranes **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW...**

As many of you are aware, the National Building Code of Canada 2005, (NBC) contains significant changes that directly affect the application of Vinyl Deck / Roofing membranes. The recent adoption of these changes into local building codes has raised many questions, and created a certain amount of confusion within the industry.

This information is intended to highlight the changes specific to our industry, and clarify exactly how these new code provisions apply to you...

The Major Change

ALL WATERPROOF DECK AREAS ARE NOW DEFINED AS ROOFS...

Previously PVC deck and roof membranes were only considered a roof, and required to meet roofing standards, when installed over habitable space. The new code defines all applications of these materials as roofs, regardless of the area below, therefore ALL materials and installations must comply with Roofing Standards.

Material Standards

REQUIREMENTS FOR A PVC ROOF MEMBRANE...

In order to comply with the requirements of a 'roof' as described by the code, materials must meet the appropriate standards listed under section '9.26.2.1, Material Standards.' For a PVC Membrane such as Weatherdek, this standard is the CAN/CGSB 37.54 "Polyvinyl Chloride Roofing and Waterproofing Membrane." The current version of this standard is the 1995 edition, or CAN/CGSB 37.54-95.

National Building Code 2005

Section 9.26 Roofing

9.26.1 General

9.26.1.1 Purpose of Roofing

1) Roofs shall be protected with roofing, including flashing, installed to shed rain effectively and prevent water due to ice damming from entering the roof.

< 2) For the purpose of Sentence (1), roofs shall include platforms that effectively serve as roofs with respect to the accumulation or drainage of precipitation. (See Appendix A.) >

(National Building Code of Canada 2005, Division B, Part 9, Page 9-145)

Appendix A

A-9.26.1.1.(2) Platforms that Effectively Serve as Roofs.

Decks, balconies, exterior walkways and similar exterior surfaces effectively serve as roofs where these platforms do not permit the free drainage of water through the deck. Unless the surface slopes to the outside edges and water can freely drain over the edge, water will pond on the surface. When rain is driven across the deck (roof) surface, water will move upward when it encounters an interruption.

(National Building Code of Canada 2005, Appendix A, Division B, Page A-180)

Section 9.26 Roofing

9.26.2 Roofing Materials

9.26.2.1 Material Standards

1) Roofing materials shall conform to CAN/CGSB 37.54 "Polyvinyl Chloride Roofing and Waterproofing Membrane"

(National Building Code of Canada 2005, Division B, Part 9, Page 9-146)

Installation Requirements

In addition to materials standards all installations must be completed in accordance with industry accepted roofing practices. This includes ensuring proper roof slopes and flashings at vertical wall or 'guard wall' connections are provided.

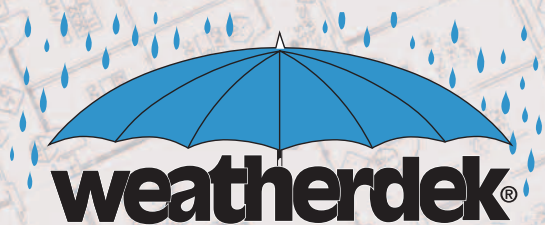
OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST...

RAILINGS - within the industry there are rumors that the new 'code' will no longer allow the practice of surface mounted aluminum rails through vinyl roof membranes, and all aluminum railing systems must now be side or 'fascia' mounted. The logic behind this practice is certainly understandable and in many cases beneficial, however to be clear **THIS IS NOT A REQUIREMENT OF THE NBC 2005.**

FLASHINGS - the 2005 NBC now requires a flashing to be installed at junctions

between roofs and walls, or guards that are connected to the roof by more than pickets or posts.

SLOPE - the new code requires that the slope of the roof (deck) be sufficient to maintain a positive slope after expected shrinkage of the building frame, and once the design loading is taken into consideration. It also requires that roofs maintain a positive slope away from both walls and solid guards that act like walls.



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Note: This notice is intended as general information. We recommend you refer to specific code requirements as well as your Local Building Code Authority for all construction projects.

