



Plumbing & Drainage Institute

DATE: August 1, 2016

TO: Specifying Engineers, Code Officials, Persons with Interest

SUBJECT: Roof Drain Flow Rates

Recent code changes and code change proposals would require roof drains to be specified at their MAXIMUM flow rate based on a theory the roof drain fixture could then be used to govern the flow in the roof drainage system. Manufacturers, and the Plumbing & Drainage Institute representing those manufacturers, most sincerely oppose specifying a roof drain fixture in such fashion for the following reasons:

1. The maximum flow rate established in ASPE RF testing was achieved with a particular piping configuration and can only be achieved with exact replication. Installations with differing piping will flow at differing rates;
2. Roof drains specified at maximum flow will not flow at that rate as a result of different stack configuration than the test configuration and most likely result in excess roof ponding;
3. Specifying any plumbing product at maximum capability leaves no safety redundancy and is not sound engineering practice;

Current revision drafting of ASME A112.6.4, Roof Drains, which is recognized in all plumbing codes, is in the final stages. The revision contains conventional performance testing which will provide flow rates based on the roof drain fixture alone at specified head(s). Most manufacturers already have similar data for some of their drains.

As Project Team Leader, ASME A112.6.4, and Executive Director, Plumbing & Drainage Institute, I urge you to employ the conventional roof drain SYSTEM sizing method, utilizing flow and head data provided by the manufacturer and conventional stack velocity calculations.

Sincerely,

Max Weiss, Executive Director
Plumbing & Drainage Institute