



### 2013 TPO Competitive Test Program Summary of Results



### **Architectural Testing**

All testing was conducted by an independent laboratory.

Carlisle chose to utilize an independent laboratory to conduct all testing to add credibility to the study. Membrane was purchased from various sources but was always acquired through the same channel a roofing contractor would use. One roll of each competitor's membrane was selected and various samples were cut from these rolls.



## **The Tests**

- Seam Strength
- Flexibility
- Weldability
- Breaking Strength
- Tearing Strength
- Thickness Over Scrim
- Puncture Resistance
- Chemical Analysis

This list represents the actual physical properties that were evaluated. Each of these physical properties affects the service life of the roofing system in some way.





### Seam Peel Strength Test





Desired Mode of Failure During Seam Peel Strength Test – Ply-to-Ply Separation





Simulated Wind Uplift Test - The stronger the seam, the greater the uplift resistance.

Sure-Weld TPO Roofing Systems

#### SEAM STRENGTH MEASURED IN LBF/IN

Speed Ft/M		Carlisle				Competitor A				Competitor B			
	7.9	10.5	13.5	16.1	7.9	10.5	13.5	16.1	7.9	10.5	13.5	16.1	
806°F	61	65	64	65	35	40	38	43	57	60	57	58	
1004°F	62	64	68	62	39	44	39	38	60	60	58	58	
1148°F	65	64	68	66	41	39	38	43	65	61	56	57	

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. It is extremely important that the seam of a TPO roofing system does not become that weak link. If welded properly the seam areas should be stronger than the sheet itself. A wide range of weldability will help ensure a solid seam at various temperatures and conditions without adjusting speeds and temperatures of the welder.



# Flexibility



In a recent survey contractors listed ease of installation as the physical characteristic that they use most often to determine which membrane they prefer to install. Ease of installation is defined in part by flexibility. The more flexible the membrane, the easier it is to complete details and install the membrane.



## Window of Weldability

#### SEAM STRENGTH MEASURED IN LBF/IN

Speed Ft/M	Carlisle				Competitor A				Competitor B			
	7.9	10.5	13.5	16.1	7.9	10.5	13.5	16.1	7.9	10.5	13.5	16.1
806°F	61	65	64	65	35	40	38	43	57	60	57	58
1004°F	62	64	68	62	39	44	39	38	60	60	58	58
1148°F	65	64	68	66	41	39	38	43	65	61	56	57

A wide window of weldability will help ensure a solid seam is created at various ambient temperatures and weather conditions without adjusting speeds and temperatures of the welder. In addition to more consistent seaming, a wide window of weldability provides labor savings and an easier to install roofing system



### **Breaking Strength**



### **Breaking Strength Test**







## **Average Breaking Strength**



A majority of TPO roofing systems that are installed are mechanically fastened to the roof deck. Breaking strength is a critical measurement of a sheet's strength if the membrane is ever subjected to extreme forces, such as excessive wind, against the fasteners that hold it in place. The ASTM breaking strength test consists of a machine pulling the membrane in opposite directions and recording the amount of force necessary to create membrane failure. This test is performed both across the sheet (cross direction) and lengthwise (machine direction). The numbers above represent the average of the machine and cross direction results.



# **Tearing Strength**



Tearing strength is very similar to breaking strength and its importance is just as critical. Tearing strength is a measurement of how much force is required to rip the membrane from the edge, as opposed to breaking strength which involves pulling opposite ends of the sheet in different directions. Tearing strength results are also measured by adding the results of the force required to tear the sheet both across and down the sheet. The main benefit to a high tearing strength value is experienced when a small cut in the membrane occurs. By having high tearing strength a small cut is less likely to become a large tear, which can lead to excessive damage.



### **Thickness Over Scrim**



THICKNESS OVER SCRIM

While it's important to have a thick sheet, which is measured in the "Thickness Overall" test, "Thickness Over Scrim" measures the top-ply of the TPO membrane. TPO consists of a top-ply, scrim in the middle and a bottom ply. The top-ply is the front line of defense against the elements and the usable life of the membrane is compromised when the scrim is exposed. Thickness over scrim is a critical measurement when evaluating the potential longevity of a TPO roofing system.



### **Thickness Over Scrim**

#### **CROSS-SECTION OF TPO MEMBRANE**



**Competitor B** 

**Carlisle Sure-Weld TPO** 

The top-ply of your TPO membrane is the first line of defense your building has against harmful weather. Thickness over scrim measurements can be misleading if the scrim is not properly embedded in the top and bottom ply.



### **Puncture Resistance**



There are many reasons to have a membrane with high puncture resistance.



### **Puncture Resistance**



PUNCTURE RESISTANCE

On a properly installed TPO roofing system a common way for leaks to occur is through punctures in the membrane. By ensuring that the membrane installed has high puncture resistance and the manufacturer has the ability to provide an accidental puncture warranty, leaks due to punctures in the membrane can be mitigated and handled in a timely manner.



### Weathering Package – Chemical Analysis

1200 900 600 600 3000 Carlisle Competitor D Competitor A Competitor C Competitor B

Carlisle has been at the forefront of TPO development for nearly 20 years and continues to lead the industry with its high-performance OctaGuard XT weathering package that is incorporated into all Sure-Weld membrane and accessories. OctaGuard XT weathering package technology is comprised of eight performance-enhancing ingredients, including three heat-stabilizing antioxidants and three UV light stabilizers as well as organic and inorganic UV absorbers. When combined, these eight ingredients provide a weathering package second to none in the TPO industry.



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## **Rank by Properties**



After compiling all of the test data, a ranking system was applied to each of the TPO membranes. Each test was given the same weight in terms of importance. For each of the tests, the sample that performed the worst was given a score of 1, and the sample that performed the best was given a score of 7. Therefore this table reflects the cumulative score of all the tests.

