



Metal Building Manufacturers Association (MBMA)

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MBMA Releases White Paper on Options for Retrofitting a Metal Roof

CLEVELAND, OHIO – www.mbma.com: The Metal Building Manufacturers Association (MBMA) released the white paper, *Comparison of Retrofit Systems Over Existing Metal Roofs*, by Brian Gardiner FRCI, RRC, CCS. This paper provides a detailed comparison of two options for putting a new roof layer over an existing metal roof: a new metal roof and a single-ply layer, most often consisting of Thermoplastic Polyolefin (TPO).

When a metal roof has reached the end of its long lifespan, one option that is occurring more often is to retrofit the roof; that is, construct a new layer of roofing material on top of the old one. Brian Gardiner makes the case for why this is a good option, then goes on to compare two popular retrofit methods in this white paper.

“With the popularity of retrofit roofing growing, there is a need for objective information to educate roofers and building owners about the code requirements for re-covering roofs,” notes Dan Walker, MBMA Associate General Manager. “This paper helps to fill that gap.”

Comparison of Retrofit Systems Over Existing Metal Roofs first looks at the building code requirements in the International Building Code (IBC) and International Existing Building Code (IEBC). The paper explores the specific sections and provisions of both codes that come into play before moving on to the building and design considerations.

There are a number of design considerations that should be accounted for when deciding which retrofit option is best. These include the existing support structure of the building, secondary structural member deflection, existing metal roof properties, ponding water, fastening the retrofit roof to the existing structure, drag load and fire rating. The paper provides details about both metal roof and single ply retrofits for each of these considerations. The paper’s summary also

notes that, when considering retrofitting a metal roof, owners and builders should engage a licensed professional engineer to indicate the best way forward and consult with local code officials to determine what is acceptable for buildings in the area.

“This white paper provides important information about the options for retrofitting a metal roof,” notes W. Lee Shoemaker Ph.D., PE, MBMA’s director of research & engineering. “Before undertaking a project of this nature, it is important to research all the information available before making any decision. This paper is a good place to start.”

To download the free white paper, visit www.mbma.com/media/MetalRoofRetrofits.pdf. For more information about metal roofing or any of MBMA’s research and education initiatives, please contact mbma@mbma.com or call 216.241.7333.

Founded in 1956, MBMA serves manufacturers and suppliers as it works to promote the metal building systems industry. For over 60 years, its membership has supplied high-quality buildings for use in commercial, retail, office, industrial, institutional and other end-uses. The association provides a wealth of useful information on its website, www.mbma.com, for anyone who works with or is interested in metal building systems. It includes technical materials and design guides.

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