

Specification for
Roofing Slates —

Part 2: Metric units

Co-operating organizations

The Aggregates, Natural Stone and Quarry Products Industry Standards Committee, under whose supervision this British Standard was prepared, consists of representatives of the following Government departments and scientific and industrial organizations:

- British Quarrying and Slag Federation
- British Ready Mixed Concrete Association
- British Stone Federation*
- Cement and Concrete Association
- Concrete Society Limited
- English Slate Quarries Association*
- Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors
- Federated Quarry Owners of Great Britain*
- Institute of Quarrying
- Institution of Civil Engineers
- Institution of Municipal Engineers*
- Institution of Structural Engineers
- Ministry of Public Buildings and Works*
- Ministry of Public Building and Works — Building Research Station*
- Ministry of Transport
- Ministry of Transport — Road Research Laboratory
- National Federation of Building Trades Employers*
- Natural Environment Research Council — Institute of Geological Sciences
- Royal Institute of British Architects
- Sand and Ballast Hauliers and Allied Trades Alliances Ltd.
- Society of Chemical Industry

The Government departments and scientific and industrial organizations marked with an asterisk in the above list, together with the following, were directly represented on the committee entrusted with the preparation of this standard:

- British Precast Concrete Federation
- Institute of Building
- Modular Society
- National Federation of Roofing Contractors
- North Wales Slate Quarries Association
- Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

This British Standard, having been approved by the Aggregates, Natural Stone and Quarry Products Industry Standards Committee, was published under the authority of the Executive Board on 21 April, 1971

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The following BSI reference relates to the work on this standard:
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Foreword

In order to keep abreast of progress in the industries concerned, British Standards are subject to periodical review. Suggestions for improvements will be recorded and in due course brought to the notice of the committees charged with the revision of the standards to which they refer.

A complete list of British Standards, numbering over 5 000, fully indexed and with a note of the contents of each, will be found in the British Standards Yearbook. The BS Yearbook may be consulted in many public libraries and similar institutions.

This standard makes reference to the following British Standard:

CP 142, *Slating and tiling*

CP 142-2, *Metric units*

This metric edition of BS 680, published as Part 2, has been prepared under the authority of the Aggregates, Natural Stone and Quarry Products Industry Standards Committee, as part of the change to the metric system in the construction industry, giving values in SI units. For further information on SI units, reference should be made to PD 5686¹⁾. The specification was first issued in 1944. Part 2 is virtually the same but with metric units.

Roofing slates which contain carbonate among their mineral constituents are susceptible to attack by the sulphur compounds present in the air. The degree of attack varies with the degree of atmospheric pollution in the locality, being more pronounced in town than in country districts. For this reason the test requirements are different according to the situation in which the slate is to be used.

At the same time the committee responsible for the revised specification recognizes that there are certain slates which will not pass the sulphuric acid immersion test, but which, principally by reason of the thickness in which they are used, give good service even in polluted atmospheres. For such slates the acid test requirements can be waived if the prospective user is satisfied from experience in the locality that their durability is adequate for his purpose.

Some difficulty has been experienced by the committee in regard to the terms, "Best", "Strong Best", "Mediums", "Strong Mediums", "Seconds", "Thirds", "No. 1", "No. 2", "No. 3", etc., applied by the quarries and it should be recognized that these terms denote thickness and texture rather than durability.

Unfortunately they have not necessarily the same meaning when applied by different quarries, or even when applied by one quarry to slates from different veins of rock. "Best" slates of one description may be as thick as "Mediums" of another description and "Thirds" from one quarry are not necessarily of the same thickness as "Thirds" from another quarry. It may be accepted, however, that slates classified by the quarries as "Bests" are the thinnest slates produced from each particular vein of rock, i.e. from the finest cleavage of rock described. The terms are applied in the following order: Best, Strong Best, Medium, Strong Medium, Seconds, Thirds. The designations No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 are also used in some cases according to local custom and long established practice, but these terms appear to be limited to certain slates produced in varying widths, No. 1 corresponding approximately to Seconds. It is emphasized that the terms cannot be used to compare slates of different descriptions.

¹⁾ PD 5686, *"The use of SI units"*.