07 26 00 – Vapor Retarders

1. **General**

   A. The National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA) and the major roofing material manufacturers recommend serious consideration of a vapor retarder on any roof where the outside average January temperature is 40°F or less and the interior relative humidity will be 45% or greater. The responsibility will be with the Consultant to determine if the conditions will apply to a particular project.

   B. Vapor retarder materials or systems are of three general types: bituminous, nonbituminous and plastic film. Vapor retarder materials must be compatible with the insulation and membrane system.

   C. Vapor retarders shall be used only when absolutely necessary as they tend to hide leaks in a roof system until large areas of insulation become wet. This results in an increase in the size of the damaged roof area and translates into an increased cost for repairs.

   D. For further guidelines, consult the NRCA Roofing Manual.