



Designation: C1153 – 23

Standard Practice for Location of Wet Insulation in Roofing Systems Using Infrared Imaging¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C1153; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice applies to techniques that employ infrared imaging at night to determine the location of wet insulation in roofing systems that have insulation above the deck in contact with the waterproofing. This practice includes ground-based and aerial inspections. (**Warning**—Extreme caution shall be taken when accessing or walking on roof surfaces and when operating aircraft at low altitudes, especially at night.) (**Warning**—It is a good safety practice for at least two people to be present on the roof surface at all times when ground-based inspections are being conducted.)

1.2 This practice addresses criteria for infrared equipment such as minimum resolvable temperature difference, spectral range, instantaneous field of view, and field of view.

1.3 This practice addresses meteorological conditions under which infrared inspections shall be performed.

1.4 This practice addresses the effect of roof construction, material differences, and roof conditions on infrared inspections.

1.5 This practice addresses operating procedures, operator qualifications, and operating practices.

1.6 This practice also addresses verification of infrared data using invasive test methods.

1.7 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.8 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use. Specific precautionary statements are given in 1.1.*

1.9 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standard-*

ization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

C168 Terminology Relating to Thermal Insulation

D1079 Terminology Relating to Roofing and Waterproofing

E1149 Definitions of Terms Relating to Ndt by Infrared Thermography (Withdrawn 1991)³

E1213 Practice for Minimum Resolvable Temperature Difference for Thermal Imaging Systems

2.2 *ANSI-ASHRAE Standard:*

ANSI-ASHRAE Standard 101—Application of Infrared Sensing Devices to the Assessment of Building Heat Loss Characteristics⁴

2.3 *ISO Standard:*

ISO/DP 6781.3E—Thermal Insulation—Qualitative Detection of Thermal Irregularities in Building Envelopes—Infrared Method⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *blackbody, n*—the ideal, perfect emitter and absorber of thermal radiation. It emits radiant energy at each wavelength at the maximum rate possible as a consequence of its temperature, and absorbs all incident radiance. (See Terminology C168.)

3.1.2 *core, n, n*—a small sample encompassing at least 13 cm² of the roof surface area taken by cutting through the roof membrane and insulation and removing the insulation to determine its composition, condition, and moisture content.

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C16 on Thermal Insulation and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C16.30 on Thermal Measurement.

Current edition approved Sept. 1, 2023. Published October 2023. Originally approved in 1990. Last previous edition approved in 2015 as C1153 – 10 (2015). DOI: 10.1520/C1153-23.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

⁴ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

3.1.3 *detection, n*—the condition at which there is a consistent indication that a thermal difference is present on the surface of the roof. Detection of thermal anomalies can be accomplished when they are large enough and close enough to be within the spatial resolution capabilities of the imaging system; that is, when their width is at least two times the product of the instantaneous field of view (IFOV) (see 3.1.8) of the system and the distance from the system to the surface of the roof divided by 1000.

3.1.4 *emittance, ϵ , n*—the ratio of the radiant flux emitted by a specimen to that emitted by a blackbody at the same temperature and under the same conditions. (See Terminology C168.)

3.1.5 *expansion joint, n*—a structural separation or flexible connection between two building elements that allows free movement between the elements without damage to the roofing or waterproofing system. (See Terminology D1079.)

3.1.6 *field-of-view, (FOV), n*—the total angular dimensions, expressed in radians, within which objects are imaged, displayed and recorded by a stationary imaging device.

3.1.7 *infrared imaging system, n*—an apparatus that converts the spatial variations in infrared radiance from a surface into a two-dimensional image, in which variations in radiance are displayed as a range of colors or tones.

3.1.8 *instantaneous field of view, (IFOV), n*—the smallest angle, in milliradians, that will be instantaneously resolved by a particular infrared imaging system.

3.1.9 *membrane, n*—a flexible or semiflexible roof covering or waterproofing whose primary function is the exclusion of water. (See Terminology D1079.)

3.1.10 *minimum resolvable temperature difference (MRTD), n*—a measure of the ability of operators of an infrared imaging system to discern temperature differences with that system. The MRTD is the minimum temperature difference between a four slot test pattern of defined shape and size and its blackbody background at which an average observer is capable of discerning the pattern with that infrared imaging system at a defined distance.

3.1.11 *moisture meter probe, n*—an invasive (electrical resistance or galvanometric type) test that entails the insertion of a meter probe(s) through the roof membrane to indicate the presence of moisture within the roofing system.

3.1.12 *radiance, n*—the rate of radiant emission per unit solid angle and per unit projected area of a source in a stated angular direction from the surface (usually the normal). (See Terminology C168.)

3.1.13 *recognition, n*—the ability to differentiate between different types of thermal patterns such as board-stock, picture-framed and amorphous. Recognition of thermal anomalies is accomplished when their width is at least eight times the product of the IFOV of the infrared imaging system and the distance from the system to the surface of the roof divided by 1000.

3.1.14 *roof section, n*—a portion of a roof that is separated from adjacent portions by walls or expansion joints and in which there are no major changes in the components.

3.1.15 *roofing system, n*—an assembly of interacting components designed to weatherproof, and normally to insulate, a building's top surface. (See Terminology D1079.)

3.1.16 *survey window, n*—the time period during which roof moisture surveys are successfully conducted according to the requirements of Section 10.

3.1.17 *thermal anomaly, n*—a thermal pattern of a surface that varies from a uniform color or tone when viewed with an infrared imaging system. Wet insulation is capable of causing thermal anomalies.

3.1.18 *thermogram, n*—a recorded visual image that maps the apparent temperature pattern of an object or scene into a corresponding contrast or color pattern. (See Terminology E1149 with the word “recorded” added.)

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This practice is used to outline the minimum necessary elements and conditions to obtain an accurate determination of the location of wet insulation in roofing systems using infrared imaging.

4.2 This practice is not meant to be an instructional document or to provide all the knowledge and background necessary to provide an accurate analysis. For further information, see ANSI-ASHRAE Standard 101 and ISO/DP 6781.3E.

4.3 This practice does not provide methods to determine the cause of moisture or its point of entry. It does not address the suitability of any particular system to function capably as waterproofing.

5. Infrared Survey Techniques

5.1 Ground-Based:

5.1.1 *Walk-Over*—Walking on a roof using an infrared imaging system. Imaging systems are hand-carried or mounted on a cart, is required. Thermograms are taken of areas of interest. Areas that appear to contain wet insulation are identified and marked for verification.

5.1.2 *Elevated Vantage Point*—Use of an infrared imaging system from an elevated vantage point provides an improved view of the roof.

5.2 Aerial:

5.2.1 *Real-Time Imaging*—Use of an infrared imaging system from an aircraft. Thermograms are obtained for the entire roof.

6. Instrument Requirements

6.1 General:

6.1.1 *Objective*—Instrument requirements have been established in order to permit location of insulation that has lost as little as 20 % of its insulating ability because it contains moisture.

6.1.2 *Spectral Range*—The infrared imaging system shall operate within a spectral range from 2 to 14 μm . A spot radiometer or nonimaging line scanner is not sufficient.

6.1.3 *Minimum Resolvable Temperature Difference (MRTD)*—The MRTD at 20°C shall be 0.3°C.