



## NRC Publications Archive Archives des publications du CNRC

### **American Society for Testing and Materials 1962 Conference of Technical Committee Officers** Crawford, C. B.

For the publisher's version, please access the DOI link below./ Pour consulter la version de l'éditeur, utilisez le lien DOI ci-dessous.

#### **Publisher's version / Version de l'éditeur:**

<https://doi.org/10.4224/20358637>

*Technical Note (National Research Council of Canada. Division of Building Research), 1963-03-01*

#### **NRC Publications Record / Notice d'Archives des publications de CNRC:**

<https://nrc-publications.canada.ca/eng/view/object/?id=4a6d0121-2070-4e3b-8235-2f7d6e96b022>

<https://publications-cnrc.canada.ca/fra/voir/objet/?id=4a6d0121-2070-4e3b-8235-2f7d6e96b022>

Access and use of this website and the material on it are subject to the Terms and Conditions set forth at

<https://nrc-publications.canada.ca/eng/copyright>

READ THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE USING THIS WEBSITE.

L'accès à ce site Web et l'utilisation de son contenu sont assujettis aux conditions présentées dans le site

<https://publications-cnrc.canada.ca/fra/droits>

LISEZ CES CONDITIONS ATTENTIVEMENT AVANT D'UTILISER CE SITE WEB.

#### **Questions?** Contact the NRC Publications Archive team at

PublicationsArchive-ArchivesPublications@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca. If you wish to email the authors directly, please see the first page of the publication for their contact information.

**Vous avez des questions?** Nous pouvons vous aider. Pour communiquer directement avec un auteur, consultez la première page de la revue dans laquelle son article a été publié afin de trouver ses coordonnées. Si vous n'arrivez pas à les repérer, communiquez avec nous à PublicationsArchive-ArchivesPublications@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca.





# NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA

## DIVISION OF BUILDING RESEARCH

No.

392

# TECHNICAL NOTE

*RS*

PREPARED BY C. B. Crawford

CHECKED BY

APPROVED BY RFL

DATE March 1963

PREPARED FOR Record Purposes

### SUBJECT

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS

1962 CONFERENCE OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OFFICERS

The second conference of officers of ASTM committees was held in Philadelphia on 19 and 20 November 1962. The conference was divided into three sessions, two general sessions attended by chairmen, vice-chairmen and secretaries, and one session divided into separate workshop meetings of chairmen and secretaries. Attendance, interest and discussion were very good. It was apparent from discussion that a committee such as D-18 on "Soils for Engineering Purposes" has fewer complex problems than some of the other committees. The most difficult problems appear to arise in those committees that are primarily concerned with specifications for materials in which the interests of producers and consumers may be in conflict. Committee D-18, dealing primarily with test methods, does not have this problem to the same extent.

A report on the conference will come in due course from headquarters. These notes are intended to summarize the main points of discussion of direct interest to Committee D-18.

#### 1. Committee Representation and Balance

Many committees have difficulty in getting enough non-producer members. D-18 is not in this position. Less than 20 per cent of its members are classified as producers. In some committees the definition of producer and consumer members is complicated and it is Society policy to allow a

member to vote either as a producer or a consumer, depending on the particular subject of the ballot. A member, for example, may be classed as a producer according to the scope of a committee, but may be considered as a consumer of a particular material being studied by the committee. It was apparent that the Society does not exercise great control over member classification, but expects each committee to ensure that the classification used by the member on each ballot is correct.

## 2. Informal Conferences

It was suggested that informal conferences should be held to explore controversial topics, with no written record kept of the proceedings. It was thought by some that too much material got into print, that the standards of publication should be raised, and that more informal discussion should be encouraged. Some committees are having short, 5-minute, research reports (unpublished) at their committee report sessions.

## 3. Liaison between Committees

A prime function of this Conference was to improve liaison between committees. There were indications that this may be one of its most successful functions. It was suggested that members of headquarters' staff should be more vocal in pointing out conflicts between committees. The staff thought that better "Scopes" would reduce potential conflicts. Sometimes liaison is most successful on the subcommittee level. In at least one instance, two committees having a common interest each have a subcommittee composed of the same members. It was noted that sometimes certain standards are made the joint responsibility of two committees. This was considered to be a poor arrangement. The value of direct discussion in the coordination of activities was obvious at this meeting. Dissension between at least two committees was completely dispelled in this way.

## 4. Committee Officers

In its attempt to allow complete autonomy to its committees the Society has no policy on the tenure of office for officers. Some committees have no limit, and some allow one to three 2-year terms. The Society is interested in comments on this situation and has an ad hoc committee

considering the possibility of establishing a policy on the matter. A show of hands indicated that the majority at the conference were interested in maintaining the status quo. One member pointed out that this was not a fair assessment because it was, in general, the members who were not committee officers who were in favour of the change. It was pointed out also that some committees had difficulty obtaining suitable chairmen because of the policy of the Society that producers cannot be chairmen of committees. It was argued that this provision enhanced the legal position of the Society, but producer members thought that there were adequate safeguards against producer domination of committees to obviate any need for this policy.

#### 5. Committee Operations

Some committees have prepared a manual for their operations. It would be useful for Committee D-18 to look into the desirability of preparing a similar manual. As a first step, one or two of the existing manuals might be reviewed.

#### 6. Book of Standards

Beginning in 1964, the book of standards will be published annually. This change in policy is intended to improve service, provide a more continuous staff workload and allow a better distribution of work for the printer. The printing of Society publications is a formidable task and it is this last fact that has almost dictated the change in policy.

#### 7. International Standards

The relationship between ASTM and international standards organizations was reviewed in some detail. A senior executive of the American Standards Association spoke to the conference to describe the position of ASA in connection with international standards. He traced the history of ASA, which was started by ASTM and other bodies, and suggested that the ASA stamp of approval on ASTM standards gave them a higher status in international circles. ASA considers itself to be a review body. It does not formulate standards. All of its committees are jointly sponsored with another body such as ASTM. President Webber said that he had found that the ASA

approval enhanced the standing of ASTM standards on an international level. Problems associated with participating in international standards organizations was discussed. It was difficult to raise funds for attendance and a number of methods of doing this were mentioned.

## 8. Other Matters

### a) Division of Materials Sciences

This Division was started to encourage a broad consideration of the problems encountered with materials. The Board thought that most members should be interested in this although the Society has received some strong objection to the interference of the Division with committee work. The objections have been in the minority and attendance and interest are considered to be high.

### b) Membership

Committees are asked to promote individual membership in the Society. Seven thousand active committee members are not personal members of the Society.

### c) Promulgation of Standards

An ad hoc committee is considering new proposals in this matter.

### d) New Building

The new building for the Society is under construction. Donations have been received to the extent of \$316,000, which is approximately one seventh of the total required.

### e) Publications

Consideration is being given to a decimal or point system of numbering sections in ASTM standards. Letters have been sent to committee officers requesting comments.



IN CHARGE