GYPSUM ASSOCIATION

GYPSUMATION

Supplement to *Construction Dimensions*

WINTER 2011

Gypsum Association Releases Revised Finishing Recommendations

The Gypsum Association has recently announced the publication of the revised finishing recommendation, *GA-214-2010, Recommended Levels of Gypsum Board Finish*.

This publication is jointly produced by five leading associations in the industry: The Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industry; the Ceilings and Interior Systems Construction Association; the Drywall Finishing Council; the Gypsum Association; and the Painting and Decorating Contractors of America. The document assists specifiers, owners, and contractors to precisely describe the desired finish of individual walls and ceilings to meet specific needs. It avoids non-specific terms like "industry standards" and "workmanlike finish" and the problems they can cause.

The changes that appear in the 2010 edition are primarily intended to make the document consistent with industry joint treatment application practices and recent modifications in model building codes.

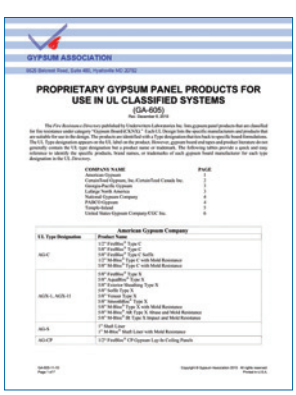
GA-214-2010, Recommended Levels of Gypsum Board Finish, may be purchased online from the Association's website at: www.gypsum.org, or by telephoning the Association for an order form at (301) 277-8686.

Inside this issue:

VISIT THE GYPSUM ASSOCIATION WEBSITE AT WWW.GYPSUM.ORG

We're Your Gypsum Board Information Resource!

Gypsum Association Posts Revised Cross-Reference Publication



The Gypsum Association has posted a revised version of GA-605, *Proprietary Gypsum Panel Products for Use in UL Classified Systems*, on its website. GA-605 is a document designed to help contractors and design professionals easily identify the gypsum panel products cited in one of the most commonly used fire-resistance-rated design reference sources.

Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) annually publishes a multi-volume catalog of fire-resistance-rated building system designs in its *Fire Resistance Directory*. Many of the available fire-resistance-rated gypsum building system designs are listed in the directory. UL identifies the gypsum panel products that appear in the directory using "type designations." While the products depicted in each design are listed by manufacturer and "type," the type designations do not always appear in the manufacturers' product literature or on the end tapes used to identify the products at supply yards, retailers, and other outlets. GA-605 provides a ready cross-reference between the UL type designations and the actual product or brand name under which the product is sold. Prior to the publication of GA-605, contractors and design professionals seeking to comply with the UL designs often needed to contact several manufacturers to ensure that the correct product was being used in a specific fire-rated building system, which was not always convenient.

(Continued on page 3)

Gypsum Association to Conduct Life Cycle Analysis Study of Gypsum Wallboard

The Gypsum Association has engaged the services of the Athena Institute to conduct a cradle-to-shipping gate life cycle analysis study of gypsum wallboard.

The study will create a transparent, peer-reviewed life cycle analysis report for 1/2-inch-thick and 5/8-inch-thick gypsum wallboard in accordance with the international standards set out in ISO Standard 14040/44s. The report will examine both natural and synthetic core gypsum wallboard.

Athena Institute is an international not-for-profit dedicated to sustainability of the built environment based in Merrickville, Ontario. In 1997, the Athena Institute conducted a life cycle inventory study of Canadian gypsum wallboard products that is still referenced today as a robust source of information concerning gypsum wallboard and ancillary material production.

"We still reference the 1997 report and consider it to be a valuable resource document," says Michael Gardner, Executive Director of the Gypsum Association. "But we also realize that it has become somewhat dated and that the inputs used in manufacturing gypsum wallboard have changed during the past decade. So it is time for the industry to conduct a new study; in particular, a study that reflects the use of contemporary evaluation methodologies."

The project commenced in December 2010 and is expected to be completed during the fall of 2011.

Gypsum Association Seeks to Modify IgCC

The International Green Construction Code (IgCC) is the International Code Council's supplemental code designed to reduce the environmental impact of construction projects that meet other ICC codes' requirements. Statements on their website explain:

> "The International Green Construction Code (IgCC) was developed to apply to traditional and high-performance buildings that are consistent and coordinated with the ICC family of Codes and Standards. The IgCC is applicable to the construction of buildings, structures and systems, including alterations and additions.
>
> "The IgCC has been developed as an 'overlay' to the I-Codes and does not replace their use. It contains a new regulatory framework that permits maximum choice and adaptation to local or regional conditions. Through the use of Baseline requirements, Project Electives and Jurisdictional Requirements, the IgCC has achieved a balance between safety and sustainability."

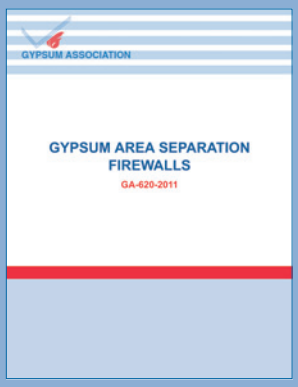
The Gypsum Association has participated in the development of the IgCC since its inception. The Association's Assistant Executive Director and Director of Technical Services, Robert Wessel, PhD, has been the Association's representative throughout the IgCC's development. Wessel has been tasked with ensuring that the code recognizes the contribution of gypsum products to a sustainable built environment. Now that the IgCC has released its second public comment version, the Association has submitted two code change proposals that are designed to modify the code to ensure that building systems that include gypsum products receive the appropriate environmental credit.

One code change proposal offered by the Gypsum Association recommends creating a new provision to recognize on-site use of construction wastes that are known to enhance the characteristics of the site, such as drainage or soil fertility properties. Such a measure would reduce the amount of energy expended to remove and process waste materials while providing a benefit to the site. A second code change proposal recommends altering Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) limitations on the materials recognized as reducing environmental impact, so that certain commonly available building products may be included without the need for burdensome testing and documentation.

(Gypsum Association Posts Revised Cross-Reference Publication, continued from page 1)

GA-605 is a six-page PDF that contains tables listing the products available from each Gypsum Association member that correspond to the various UL type designations. GA-605 is regularly updated to ensure that it stays current, and it is consequently only available from the Gypsum Association as a free downloadable PDF at http://www.gypsum.org/download.html.

Gypsum Association Posts New Publication on Area Separation Firewalls



The Gypsum Association has recently posted an electronic version of its latest publication GA-620, *Gypsum Area Separation Firewalls*, on the Association's website.

The eight-page document provides both general and specific information about the selection, design, and installation of gypsum area separation fire walls, ranging from an introduction that describes that features and benefits that accompany these assemblies to cross-sectional construction details of several common configurations. The document also includes sections on Handling and Storage, Cutting the gypsum panels, Limitations and Special Conditions, Components, and Installation.

GA-620 can be downloaded from Association's online bookstore found at www.gypsum.org.

Technical Hotline

Question: We have used several designs found in GA-600, *Fire Resistance Design Manual,* that were shown to have STC ratings of 50 to 54. However, it was necessary to have the completed partitions field-tested, and the test results came up roughly five points lower than the stated STC ratings published in GA-600. How is this possible?

Answer: Sound Transmission Class (STC) ratings are determined under tightly controlled laboratory conditions where two rooms of identical size and acoustical properties are divided by the assembly being tested. The test essentially measures the difference between the sound pressure level in the room where the sound is generated and the adjacent room. The generated sound is carefully controlled, measured at specific 1/3 octave frequencies, and the measurements are weighted to ensure a proper comparison of the different frequencies that pass through the partition that separates the two test areas. The resulting STC ratings are primarily intended to be used to compare the sound attenuating properties of different building systems or assemblies as fairly as possible.

A field test, by definition, must be conducted in real-world conditions where the tested assembly has not been constructed under laboratory conditions, is not likely separating two acoustically identical rooms, and where the acoustical properties of the tested areas cannot be as carefully controlled as in a test laboratory. Consequently, the test results captured in the field may not replicate those captured under laboratory conditions.

When you have technical questions just contact the Gypsum Association!

Phone: 301-277-8686
8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. ET
Fax: 301-277-8747
Website:
www.gypsum.org

ESSENTIALS
FROM THE GYPSUM ASSOCIATION

FIRE RESISTANCE DESIGN MANUAL GA-600-2009 19th Edition

Includes fire-resistance ratings for over 420 gypsum protected wall, ceiling, roof, column, beam girder, and truss systems. Now contains laboratory tested designs for both fire-resistance and sound-attenuation-rated gypsum board building systems, including walls and partitions, floor-ceiling and roof-ceiling systems. Over 80 proprietary building system designs are offered. Referenced by the International Building Code, Uniform Building Code, the BOCA National Building Code, the Uniform Building Code, the Standard Building Code and The National Fire Codes. Also referenced in major jurisdictions in the United States such as Florida, Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York City. Recognized in major jurisdictions in Canada. 178 pages.

FIRE RESISTANCE DESIGN MANUAL GA-600-2006 18th Edition

Includes fire-resistance ratings for over 370 gypsum protected wall, ceiling, roof, column, beam girder, and truss systems. Over 40 system designs have been added since the previous edition, including several new floor- and roof-ceiling systems and double-stud steel partition designs. Referenced by the International Building Code, Uniform Building Code, and the Building Construction and Safety Code, NFPA 5000. Also referenced in major jurisdictions in the United States such as Florida, Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York City. Recognized in major jurisdictions in Canada. 158 pages.

APPLICATION AND FINISHING OF GYPSUM PANEL PRODUCTS GA-216-2010

Describes the most up-to-date industry and building code recommendations for the proper installation and finishing of gypsum panel products, including related accessories, over a variety of substrates and framing. An invaluable resource for drywall contractors. 16 pages.

DESIGN DATA - GYPSUM BOARD GA-530

Our most complete collection of current Gypsum Association publications containing the most recent edition of the Fire Resistance Design Manual (GA-600) as well as GA-214, GA-216, GA-220, GA-221, GA-222, GA-223, GA-224, GA-225, GA-226, GA-229, GA-232, GA-234, GA-235, GA-236, GA-253, GA-254, GA-276, GA-290, GA-291, GA-406, GA-510, GA-515, GA-610, GA-618 and ICC-ES ESR-1338.

RECOMMENDED LEVELS OF GYPSUM BOARD FINISH (GA-214) RESOURCES

Levels of Finish resources provide information on the 5 levels of gypsum board finish and will enable you both to anticipate the final appearance of decorated wall and ceiling systems and to achieve a specified finish. Resources cover factors to be considered, terminology, where each level should be used, and the minimum requirements for each level. Featured resources include GA-214-VS, an 11 minute Levels of Finish video containing Spanish narration, and GA-214-CCD, an instructional CD-ROM (English).

To place your order, fax or mail this order form to:

Gypsum Association
6525 Belcrest Road, Suite 480
Hyattsville, MD 20782
301-277-8686
301-277-8747 (Fax)

To save time, order publications on line at: www.gypsum.org

Please send me:

_____ Copies of *FIRE RESISTANCE DESIGN MANUAL* GA-600-2009 X $25.00 *each* = _____
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Prices include shipping charges. Sales tax will be added to orders sent to Maryland addresses.

❑ A check is enclosed, or bill my
❑ MasterCard ❑ VISA ❑ American Express Acct #: _____

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FREE MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

❑ Please send me the CD-ROM, ***Recommended Levels of Gypsum Board Finish (GA-214-CCD).***

❑ Please send me a *Catalog of Publications, Resources, and Training Materials.*

GYPSUM ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP 2010

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