
The Gypsum Association is pleased to announce the pending release of the 20th edition of GA-600, Fire Resistance Design Manual (FRDM). Since 1958, the Association has regularly published its collection of the latest in fire-resistance rated gypsum building system designs. And since its introduction, the manual has become the standard industry reference document for architects and design professionals, builders and drywall contractors, and the building code enforcement community.

The FRDM depicts laboratory tested designs for both fire-resistance- and sound-attenuation-rated gypsum board building systems. The rated systems include walls and partitions; floor-ceiling systems; roof-ceiling systems; column protection systems; and beam, girder, and truss protection systems. Fire resistance ratings range from one to four hours; sound attenuating systems range from 30 to 69 in sound transmission class (STC). The FRDM also contains sections that describe the requirements necessary for correctly assembling fire-resistant and noise-attenuating building systems.

The FRDM is currently referenced by the International Building Code, and the National Fire Codes, as well as many state and local jurisdictions in the US and Canada as a source document for fire-resistance and sound-control rated designs that incorporate gypsum board in a variety of building systems. In addition, GA-600 is still referenced in the BOCA National Building Code, the Uniform Building Code, and the Standard Building Code.

New to this edition of the FRDM are several designs for protecting steel column systems that for the first time allow the use of horizontal joints. These new steel column systems offer fire-resistance ratings ranging between 1 to 4 hours. An entire new section has also been added to the manual that addresses Strain Relief Systems. This new section includes designs for 1- to 4-hour rated systems that protect control joints in walls.

Evaluation Report Reissued


(Continued on page 3)
Gypsum Association Posts French and Spanish Versions of Standards

In an ongoing effort to reach all of the code, design, and contractor communities concerned with gypsum products in North America, the Gypsum Association has selected several of its most prominent technical documents for publication in both French and Spanish. The Association’s website now offers tabs for free, downloadable PDF versions of several documents in both French and Spanish.

Documents now available in French, primarily intended for the Canadian French speaking markets, include:

- GA-214-10, Niveaux Recommandés De Finition Des Plaques De Plâtre
- GA-216-10, Pose Et Finition De Plaques De Plâtre

Documents now available in Spanish include:

- GA-214-10, Niveles Recomendados De Acabado En Placas De Yeso
- GA-216-10, Aplicaciones Y Acabado De Productos De Paneles De Yeso
- GA-225-08, Reparación De Los Sistemas De Producto De Panel De Yeso Resistente Al Fuego
- GA-801-07, Manipulación Y Almacenamiento De Productos De Paneles De Yeso: Una Guía Para Distribuidores, Minoristas Y Contratistas

To access and download any of these documents, go to www.gypsum.org, select the Publications tab and then the Canadian French or Spanish publications tab.

Gypsum Association Monitors RSMC Website

The Gypsum Association has recently assumed the role of monitoring and maintaining the website for the Responsible Solutions to Mold Coalition (RSMC). The RSMC is an industry group devoted to educating the public and the building industry about effective ways to combat mold in residential and commercial construction. Helpful information on how to avoid mold in your home or office is offered on the RSMC website.

The website offers the following pages to address mold concerns: What Is Mold; Prevention & Control; Resources.

The “What Is Mold” page provides discussion on the following topics:

- What is mold and why is it an issue today?
- What causes mold?
- Can mold cause health problems?
- Myths about mold.

The “Prevention & Control” page provides discussion on these topics:

- How to effectively control mold by controlling moisture?
- Are mold-resistant products the answer?
- What are some mold-avoidance strategies?
- What should I do if I find mold in my home or office?
- Moisture control and best building practices are the key to fighting mold.

The “Resources” page provides links to several websites posted by various governmental agencies and other sources with additional material addressing mold issues.

The RSMC website can be found at www.responsiblemoldsolutions.org and through the Gypsum Association’s Other GA Websites page at: http://www.gypsum.org/other-ga-websites/.
1-hour systems for control joints in ceilings, and 1- and 2-hour rated perimeter relief systems. There is also a new discussion in the preliminary notes addressing the protection of wood columns and beams. There are also several new proprietary systems that offer protection for wood and steel pitched roof trusses, several 30 minute wall systems, and a 45 minute floor-ceiling system. In total, over 150 new designs have been added. The 20th edition of the FRDM consists of 230 pages.

Robert Wessel, Ph.D., the Association’s Assistant Executive Director and Director of Technical Services explains: “The 2012 edition is the culmination of the most comprehensive review and revision to GA-600 since we completely changed the format in 1992. The addition of 150 new systems, about a third of which are generic, and the creation of a completely new section (strain relief systems) constitute the greatest number of new systems added in a single edition since the inclusion of the first gypsum wallboard systems in the second edition, which was published in 1961.”

GA-600-2012 will be available for sale in print and digital download versions through the Association’s online bookstore at www.gypsum.org early this summer.

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**Two Gypsum Related ASTM Standards Updated**

ASTM committee C11 on gypsum has recently approved changes to two reference standards that prescribe the use and application of several gypsum panel products.

The first standard, ASTM C840, *Standard Specification for Application and Finishing of Gypsum Board*, received several changes throughout the document. Changes include: revised requirements for fasteners used with preservative-treated and fire retardant-treated lumber; revised references to ANSI A108, *Specifications for the Installation of Ceramic Tile*; new provisions for cutting laminated panels; modified language for gypsum board surfaces to receive ceramic tile; and a new section describing application procedures and special considerations for the application of vinyl faced products.

The second standard, ASTM C1280, *Standard Specification for Application of Gypsum Sheathing*, was changed so that its recommendations for fastener spacing in metal and wood framing agree with current building code requirements.

Both standards are available from ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, PO Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA, 19428-2959, www.astm.org.

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**Technical Hotline**

Q: Can a standard design for a fire-rated wall or partition be used to construct a shaftwall?

A: Provided that both sides of the framing can be safely accessed for the application of the fire-rated gypsum board, such a design can be used for a shaftwall. General Explanatory note 13 in the Gypsum Association publication, GA-600, *Fire Resistance Design Manual*, explains that systems with the required fire rating can be used for a variety of applications:

“Although the systems [in GA-600] are arranged in general groupings (i.e. walls and interior partitions, floor-ceilings, roof-ceilings, etc.), this is not intended to limit their use only to the specific category in which they are listed. For example, systems listed as shaft walls shall be permitted to be used as interior partitions. However, systems tested vertically (walls and partitions) shall not be permitted to be arbitrarily used in horizontal orientation.”
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, 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

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)

Please send me:

_____ Copies of FIRE RESISTANCE DESIGN MANUAL GA-600-2009    X $25.00 each = _________
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_____ Copies of DESIGN DATA - GYPSUM BOARD GA-530    X $65.00 each = _________
_____ Copies of RECOMMENDED LEVELS OF GYPSUM BOARD FINISH GA-214-VS (Spanish)    X $10.00 each = _________

Prices include shipping charges. Sales tax will be added to orders sent to Maryland addresses.

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.

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