



New Edition of Fire Resistance and Sound Control Design Manual to be Published this Fall

The Gypsum Association's flagship publication, GA-600 *Fire Resistance and Sound Control Design Manual*, is revised every three years by a committee of industry experts on the proper specification, installation and use of gypsum panel products in systems tested for fire and sound mitigation. Technical expertise is drawn from across the Gypsum Association's membership. All GA member companies, which include most active gypsum board (panel) manufacturers in the U.S. and Canada, contribute to the significant effort of revising the manual to reflect the most current technical specifications for gypsum systems. Members of the Association calcine gypsum and manufacture gypsum board under the provisions of ASTM Standard C 1396 and CAN/CSA-A82.27-M91.

Scheduled for release in the fall of this year, GA-600-2018 will be the 22nd edition of the *Manual*. For more than 40 years, GA-600 has been referenced by the model building codes as a source of fire-resistant design. The scope of the GA's flagship publication has steadily broadened to address additional factors of interest and concern for designers, builders, code officials and the public and the next edition will be no exception. Although sound control has been included in the publication's scope for many years, the new edition will feature expanded acoustical information including a section of terminology specific to sound control as

well as a set of General Explanatory Notes dedicated to sound control design. Moreover, sound data tables for many generic wall systems will be available in the electronic edition of GA-600-2018.

In addition, the book will be reformatted to more clearly distinguish design differences between the fire-tested assembly and the sound-tested assembly, ensuring that the *Fire Resistance and Sound Control Design Manual* remains among the best organized and easiest to use of the design reference manuals. Sound data for systems with a Sound Transmission Class (STC) rating below 40 will no longer be shown as these assemblies no longer comply with International Building Code (IBC) criteria for sound. However, it is important to note that some older generic systems will continue to list sound control information, including many plaster systems that are important reference designs for historic restoration.

"Although providing tested assemblies for passive fire resistance remains a core component of GA-600, the need for more precise design data on sound control is clear," says Technical Services Director Michael Schmeida, MSc, LEED AP. "The Gypsum Association and its member companies are committed to providing the A/E/C community with increasing levels of information related to acoustics in this and subsequent editions of the *Manual*."

Gypsum Association Returns to Silver Spring, Maryland

The Washington, D.C., area has been home to the Gypsum Association since the mid-1980s. Conceived in Chicago, the Association maintained its office in that city until 1984, at which point the Association secured space in Silver Spring, Maryland, a “close-in” suburb of Washington, D.C. In 1989, the GA moved to downtown Washington, occupying offices on First Street, N.E., for nearly twenty years. The Association’s location changed in 2008 and over the next decade, the Association was situated in Hyattsville, M.D., just a few miles outside the nation’s capital.

On December 4, 2017, staff reported to Silver Spring once more, this time to a newly updated space at 962 Wayne Ave. Located in Montgomery County, Maryland, Silver Spring is increasingly attracting industry and trade associations due to its convenient location and successful efforts to revitalize. What was once an aging strip of Art Deco and Midcentury Modern office buildings and shops, is now a bustling mixed-use area that combines contemporary high-rise office and residential structures with carefully preserved historic buildings.

The Association’s office is in an ENERGY STAR certified building with a robust in-house recycling program that is monitored by the County. Silver Spring offers multiple public transportation options including a popular bike share program, convenient commuter train, Metrorail and multiple bus lines. Although slightly smaller in square footage, the Silver Spring office is a light filled space that is tailored to the needs of the Gypsum Association, with a technology enabled conference room that better accommodates meetings and visitors.

Taken in the early 1950s, this image of a woman priming newly installed wallboard is one of a series of photographs showing a young couple creating a bedroom in their unfinished attic.



“Improved sustainability and indoor environmental quality were high priorities in seeking a new space.” says Executive Director Stephen Meima, APR, LEED Green Assoc. “The new office appropriately reflects the position of our industry within the design and construction sector. The space is more comfortable and energizing, and the layout facilitates the kind of collaborative work environment that is key to the success of any small staff.”

While packing for the move, a trove of photographs from the Association’s 88-year history surfaced. *Gypsumation* features one of these above and on page 4.

Gypsum Association Releases Translated Technical Documents

The Gypsum Association has translated four publications into both Canadian French and Spanish. This is the third time GA-216 *Application and Finishing of Gypsum Panel Products* has been translated into both languages. GA-216 is referenced in the

International Building Code as an appropriate standard for the application and installation of gypsum boards and panels. French and Spanish copies of the specification may be purchased through the Association’s online bookstore at: www.gypsum.org

Gypsum Association Releases Translated Technical Documents (continued)

Additional documents translated into Canadian French and Spanish are available as free downloads, as are their English-language counterparts. Canadian French and Spanish speakers can now access the following publication in both languages:

- GA-220-2016, *Gypsum Board Winter-Related Installation Recommendations*
- GA-222-2014, *Repairing Screw or Nail Pops*
- GA-225-2015 *Repair of Fire-Rated Gypsum Panel Product Systems*

GA-220-2016 *Gypsum Board Winter Related Installation Recommendations* offers practical guidance on avoiding pitfalls common to cold weather installation. Unless precautions are taken, cold and damp weather can contribute to a variety of problems during and after installation and finishing of wallboard. Maintaining a room temperature of at least 50°F (10°C) for 48 hours before, during, and after finishing, is just one of 13 recommendations that will reduce the possibility of joint compound bond failing, beading, nail popping and other problems that can result in call backs after project completion.

Fastener popping, or the protrusion of screw or nail heads above the gypsum panel surface, the subject of GA-222, can be the result of improper application or fastening. However, the most common source of popping is lumber shrinkage due to initially high moisture content in newly constructed wood framing. Overly long fastener length contributes to the problem. While fastener popping that appears before or during finishing and decoration should be repaired immediately; popping that occurs a month or more into the heating season should wait for repair until the season's end.

When fire-rated gypsum panel product systems are damaged during the life cycle of buildings, proper procedures for repair must be followed to restore the original fire resistive condition and maintain the required fire rating. *Repair of Fire-Rated Gypsum Panel Product Systems*, GA-225-2015, lays out proper procedures for assessing the severity of damage and achieving an appropriate fire resistive restoration.

"The Gypsum Association is pleased to offer these important documents in Canadian French and Spanish," said Executive Director Stephen Meima, APR, LEED Green Assoc. "These documents will serve important constituencies across North America."

Tech Question

The question, below, is the latest addition to the FAQs on gypsum.org.

Q) I am working on a fire damage repair to an older apartment building. At the area of repair, I am required to install a 1-hour fire-resistant floor/ceiling assembly that is also sound rated. The existing floor construction is 2x10 floor joists, 16" on center with 3/4" plywood floor decking and a 1-1/2" layer of gypsum concrete. I am having trouble finding an assembly in the *Fire Resistance and Sound Control Design Manual* that is compatible and that the local jurisdiction will approve. Can sawn joists be substituted for engineered I-joists in approved assemblies?

A) This question, like many received by the Gypsum Association's Technical Services Department, is answered by referencing the *Manual's* General Explanatory Notes. Note 19, page 10, in the 21st edition of the *Manual*, GA-600-2015, provides the answer,

*Specified floor-ceiling and roof-ceiling framing sizes or truss dimensions are **minimums**. Greater joist or truss sizes (depths) shall be permitted to be used in metal- or wood-framed systems . . . [emphasis added]*

Gypsum Association Technical Services Specialist Greg Woolley is available to answer questions such as the one above. Contact Greg by phone, 301-277-8686, or email, info@gypsum.org. Additionally, an ever expanding list of FAQs at gypsum.org provides quick answers to common questions.

From the GA Archives



Taken just two years after the Gypsum Association was founded, this 1932 image of an unidentified gypsum manufacturing plant shows early safety-related efforts.

Gypsum Association Members

AMERICAN GYPSUM COMPANY LLC

CERTAINTED GYPSUM, INC.

CERTAINTED GYPSUM CANADA, INC.

CGC INC.

**CONTINENTAL BUILDING PRODUCTS
OPERATING COMPANY, LLC**

GEORGIA-PACIFIC GYPSUM LLC

NATIONAL GYPSUM COMPANY

PABCO® GYPSUM

UNITED STATES GYPSUM COMPANY



Gypsum Association

962 Wayne Ave, Suite 620

Silver Spring, MD 20910

301-277-8686 • www.gypsum.org