

**SECTION 2506  
GYPSUM BOARD MATERIALS**

**2506.1 General.** Gypsum board materials and accessories shall be identified by the manufacturer's designation to indicate compliance with the appropriate standards referenced in this section and stored to protect such materials from the weather.

**2506.2 Standards.** Gypsum board materials shall conform to the appropriate standards listed in Table 2506.2 and Chapter 35 and, where required for fire protection, shall conform to the provisions of Chapter 7.

**TABLE 2506.2  
GYPSUM BOARD MATERIALS AND ACCESSORIES**

MATERIAL	STANDARD
Accessories for gypsum board	ASTM C 1047
Adhesives for fastening gypsum wallboard	ASTM C 557
Elastomeric joint sealants	ASTM C 920
Exterior soffit board	ASTM C 931
Fiber-reinforced gypsum panels	ASTM C 1278
Glass mat gypsum backing panel	ASTM C 1178
Glass mat gypsum panel	ASTM C 1658
Glass mat gypsum substrate	ASTM C 1177
Gypsum backing board and gypsum shaftliner board	ASTM C 442
Gypsum ceiling board	ASTM C 1395
Gypsum sheathing	ASTM C 79
Gypsum wallboard	ASTM C 36
Joint reinforcing tape and compound	ASTM C 474; C 475
Nails for gypsum boards	ASTM C 514, F 547, F 1667
Predecorated gypsum board	ASTM C 960
Steel screws	ASTM C 954; C 1002
Steel studs, load-bearing	ASTM C 955
Steel studs, nonload-bearing	ASTM C 645
Standard specification for gypsum board	ASTM C 1396
Testing gypsum and gypsum products	ASTM C 22; C 472; C 473
Water-resistant gypsum backing board	ASTM C 630

**2506.2.1 Other materials.** Metal suspension systems for acoustical and lay-in panel ceilings shall conform with ASTM C 635 listed in Chapter 35 and Section 13.5.6 of ASCE 7 for installation in high seismic areas.

**SECTION 2507  
LATHING AND PLASTERING**

**2507.1 General.** Lathing and plastering materials and accessories shall be marked by the manufacturer's designation to indicate compliance with the appropriate standards referenced in

this section and stored in such a manner to protect them from the weather.

**2507.2 Standards.** Lathing and plastering materials shall conform to the standards listed in Table 2507.2 and Chapter 35 and, where required for fire protection, shall also conform to the provisions of Chapter 7.

**TABLE 2507.2  
LATH, PLASTERING MATERIALS AND ACCESSORIES**

MATERIAL	STANDARD
Accessories for gypsum veneer base	ASTM C 1047
Blended cement	ASTM C 595
Exterior plaster bonding compounds	ASTM C 932
Gypsum base for veneer plasters	ASTM C 588
Gypsum casting and molding plaster	ASTM C 59
Gypsum Keene's cement	ASTM C 61
Gypsum lath	ASTM C 37
Gypsum plaster	ASTM C 28
Gypsum veneer plaster	ASTM C 587
Interior bonding compounds, gypsum	ASTM C 631
Lime plasters	ASTM C 5; C 206
Masonry cement	ASTM C 91
Metal lath	ASTM C 847
Plaster aggregates Sand Perlite Vermiculite	ASTM C 35; C 897 ASTM C 35 ASTM C 35
Plastic cement	ASTM C 1328
Portland cement	ASTM C 150
Steel screws	ASTM C 1002; C 954
Steel studs and track	ASTM C 645; C 955
Welded wire lath	ASTM C 933
Woven wire plaster base	ASTM C 1032

**SECTION 2508  
GYPSUM CONSTRUCTION**

**2508.1 General.** Gypsum board and gypsum plaster construction shall be of the materials listed in Tables 2506.2 and 2507.2. These materials shall be assembled and installed in compliance with the appropriate standards listed in Tables 2508.1 and 2511.1.1, and Chapter 35.

**TABLE 2508.1  
INSTALLATION OF GYPSUM CONSTRUCTION**

MATERIAL	STANDARD
Gypsum board	GA-216; ASTM C 840
Gypsum sheathing	ASTM C 1280
Gypsum veneer base	ASTM C 844
Interior lathing and furring	ASTM C 841
Steel framing for gypsum boards	ASTM C 754; C 1007

**2508.2 Limitations.** Gypsum wallboard or gypsum plaster shall not be used in any exterior surface where such gypsum construction will be exposed directly to the weather. Gypsum wallboard shall not be used where there will be direct exposure to water or continuous high humidity conditions. Gypsum sheathing shall be installed on exterior surfaces in accordance with ASTM C 1280.

**2508.2.1 Weather protection.** Gypsum wallboard, gypsum lath or gypsum plaster shall not be installed until weather protection for the installation is provided.

**2508.3 Single-ply application.** Edges and ends of gypsum board shall occur on the framing members, except those edges and ends that are perpendicular to the framing members. Edges and ends of gypsum board shall be in moderate contact except in concealed spaces where fire-resistance-rated construction, shear resistance or diaphragm action is not required.

**2508.3.1 Floating angles.** Fasteners at the top and bottom plates of vertical assemblies, or the edges and ends of horizontal assemblies perpendicular to supports, and at the wall line are permitted to be omitted except on shear resisting elements or fire-resistance-rated assemblies. Fasteners shall be applied in such a manner as not to fracture the face paper with the fastener head.

**2508.4 Joint treatment.** Gypsum board fire-resistance-rated assemblies shall have joints and fasteners treated.

**Exception:** Joint and fastener treatment need not be provided where any of the following conditions occur:

1. Where the gypsum board is to receive a decorative finish such as wood paneling, battens, acoustical finishes or any similar application that would be equivalent to joint treatment.
2. On single-layer systems where joints occur over wood framing members.
3. Square edge or tongue-and-groove edge gypsum board (V-edge), gypsum backing board or gypsum sheathing.
4. On multilayer systems where the joints of adjacent layers are offset from one to another.
5. Assemblies tested without joint treatment.

**2508.5 Horizontal gypsum board diaphragm ceilings.** Gypsum board shall be permitted to be used on wood joists to create a horizontal diaphragm ceiling in accordance with Table 2508.5.

**2508.5.1 Diaphragm proportions.** The maximum allowable diaphragm proportions shall be 1½:1 between shear resisting elements. Rotation or cantilever conditions shall not be permitted.

**2508.5.2 Installation.** Gypsum board used in a horizontal diaphragm ceiling shall be installed perpendicular to ceiling framing members. End joints of adjacent courses of gypsum board shall not occur on the same joist.

**2508.5.3 Blocking of perimeter edges.** All perimeter edges shall be blocked using a wood member not less than 2-inch by 6-inch (51 mm by 159 mm) nominal dimension. Blocking material shall be installed flat over the top plate of the wall to provide a nailing surface not less than 2 inches (51 mm) in width for the attachment of the gypsum board.

**2508.5.4 Fasteners.** Fasteners used for the attachment of gypsum board to a horizontal diaphragm ceiling shall be as defined in Table 2508.5. Fasteners shall be spaced not more than 7 inches (178 mm) on center (o.c.) at all supports, including perimeter blocking, and not more than ¾ inch (9.5 mm) from the edges and ends of the gypsum board.

**2508.5.5 Lateral force restrictions.** Gypsum board shall not be used in diaphragm ceilings to resist lateral forces imposed by masonry or concrete construction.

**SECTION 2509  
GYPSUM BOARD IN SHOWERS  
AND WATER CLOSETS**

**2509.1 Wet areas.** Showers and public toilet walls shall conform to Sections 1210.2 and 1210.3.

**2509.2 Base for tile.** Glass mat water-resistant gypsum backing panels, discrete nonasbestos fiber-cement interior substrate sheets or nonasbestos fiber-mat reinforced cement substrate sheets in compliance with ASTM C 1178, C 1288 or C 1325 and installed in accordance with manufacturer recommendations shall be used as a base for wall tile in tub and shower areas

**TABLE 2508.5  
SHEAR CAPACITY FOR HORIZONTAL WOOD FRAMED GYPSUM BOARD DIAPHRAGM CEILING ASSEMBLIES**

MATERIAL	THICKNESS OF MATERIAL (MINIMUM) (inches)	SPACING OF FRAMING MEMBERS (MAXIMUM) (inches)	SHEAR VALUE <sup>a, b</sup> (plf of ceiling)	MINIMUM FASTENER SIZE
Gypsum board	½	16 o.c.	90	5d cooler or wallboard nail; 1⅜-inch long; 0.086-inch shank; 15/64-inch head <sup>c</sup>
Gypsum board	½	24 o.c.	70	5d cooler or wallboard nail; 1⅜-inch long; 0.086-inch shank; 15/64-inch head <sup>c</sup>

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 pound per foot = 14.59 N/m.

a. Values are not cumulative with other horizontal diaphragm values and are for short-term loading due to wind or seismic loading. Values shall be reduced 25 percent for normal loading.

b. Values shall be reduced 50 percent in Seismic Design Categories D, E and F.

c. 1¼-inch, No. 6 Type S or W screws are permitted to be substituted for the listed nails.

**HORIZONTAL ASSEMBLY.** A fire-resistance-rated floor or roof assembly of materials designed to restrict the spread of fire in which continuity is maintained.

**JOINT.** The linear opening in or between adjacent fire-resistance-rated assemblies that is designed to allow independent movement of the building in any plane caused by thermal, seismic, wind or any other loading.

**MEMBRANE PENETRATION.** An opening made through one side (wall, floor or ceiling membrane) of an assembly.

**MEMBRANE-PENETRATION FIRESTOP.** A material, device or construction installed to resist for a prescribed time period the passage of flame and heat through openings in a protective membrane in order to accommodate cables, cable trays, conduit, tubing, pipes or similar items.

**MINERAL FIBER.** Insulation composed principally of fibers manufactured from rock, slag or glass, with or without binders.

**MINERAL WOOL.** Synthetic vitreous fiber insulation made by melting predominately igneous rock or furnace slag, and other inorganic materials, and then physically forming the melt into fibers.

**PENETRATION FIRESTOP.** A through-penetration firestop or a *membrane-penetration firestop*.

**SELF-CLOSING.** As applied to a *fire door* or other opening protective, means equipped with an device that will ensure closing after having been opened.

**SHAFT.** An enclosed space extending through one or more *stories* of a building, connecting vertical openings in successive floors, or floors and roof.

**SHAFT ENCLOSURE.** The walls or construction forming the boundaries of a shaft.

**SMOKE BARRIER.** A continuous membrane, either vertical or horizontal, such as a wall, floor or ceiling assembly, that is designed and constructed to restrict the movement of smoke.

**SMOKE COMPARTMENT.** A space within a building enclosed by *smoke barriers* on all sides, including the top and bottom.

**SMOKE DAMPER.** A *listed* device installed in ducts and air transfer openings designed to resist the passage of smoke. The device is installed to operate automatically, controlled by a smoke detection system, and where required, is capable of being positioned from a fire command center.

**SPLICE.** The result of a factory and/or field method of joining or connecting two or more lengths of a *fire-resistant joint system* into a continuous entity.

**T RATING.** The time period that the penetration firestop system, including the penetrating item, limits the maximum temperature rise to 325°F (163°C) above its initial temperature through the penetration on the nonfire side when tested in accordance with ASTM E 814 or UL 1479.

**THROUGH PENETRATION.** An opening that passes through an entire assembly.

**THROUGH-PENETRATION FIRESTOP SYSTEM.** An assemblage of specific materials or products that are designed, tested and fire-resistance rated to resist for a prescribed period

of time the spread of fire *through penetrations*. The F and T rating criteria for penetration firestop systems shall be in accordance with ASTM E 814 or UL 1479. See definitions of “F rating” and “T rating.”

**SECTION 703**

**FIRE-RESISTANCE RATINGS AND FIRE TESTS**

**703.1 Scope.** Materials prescribed herein for *fire resistance* shall conform to the requirements of this chapter.

**703.2 Fire-resistance ratings.** The *fire-resistance rating* of building elements, components or assemblies shall be determined in accordance with the test procedures set forth in ASTM E 119 or UL 263 or in accordance with Section 703.3. Where materials, systems or devices that have not been tested as part of a fire-resistance-rated assembly are incorporated into the building element, component or assembly, sufficient data shall be made available to the *building official* to show that the required *fire-resistance rating* is not reduced. Materials and methods of construction used to protect joints and penetrations in fire-resistance-rated building elements, components or assemblies shall not reduce the required *fire-resistance rating*.

**Exception:** In determining the *fire-resistance rating* of exterior bearing walls, compliance with the ASTM E 119 or UL 263 criteria for unexposed surface temperature rise and ignition of cotton waste due to passage of flame or gases is required only for a period of time corresponding to the required *fire-resistance rating* of an exterior nonbearing wall with the same *fire separation distance*, and in a building of the same group. When the *fire-resistance rating* determined in accordance with this exception exceeds the *fire-resistance rating* determined in accordance with ASTM E 119 or UL 263, the fire exposure time period, water pressure and application duration criteria for the hose stream test of ASTM E 119 or UL 263 shall be based upon the *fire-resistance rating* determined in accordance with this exception.

**703.2.1 Nonsymmetrical wall construction.** Interior walls and partitions of nonsymmetrical construction shall be tested with both faces exposed to the furnace, and the assigned *fire-resistance rating* shall be the shortest duration obtained from the two tests conducted in compliance with ASTM E 119 or UL 263. When evidence is furnished to show that the wall was tested with the least fire-resistant side exposed to the furnace, subject to acceptance of the *building official*, the wall need not be subjected to tests from the opposite side (see Section 705.5 for *exterior walls*).

**703.2.2 Combustible components.** Combustible aggregates are permitted in gypsum and portland cement concrete mixtures for fire-resistance-rated construction. Any component material or admixture is permitted in assemblies if the resulting tested assembly meets the fire-resistance test requirements of this code.

**703.2.3 Restrained classification.** Fire-resistance-rated assemblies tested under ASTM E 119 or UL 263 shall not be considered to be restrained unless evidence satisfactory to the *building official* is furnished by the *registered design professional* showing that the construction qualifies for a

restrained classification in accordance with ASTM E 119 or UL 263. Restrained construction shall be identified on the plans.

### 703.3 Alternative methods for determining fire resistance.

The application of any of the alternative methods listed in this section shall be based on the fire exposure and acceptance criteria specified in ASTM E 119 or UL 263. The required *fire resistance* of a building element, component or assembly shall be permitted to be established by any of the following methods or procedures:

1. Fire-resistance designs documented in sources.
2. Prescriptive designs of fire-resistance-rated building elements, components or assemblies as prescribed in Section 720.
3. Calculations in accordance with Section 721.
4. Engineering analysis based on a comparison of building element, component or assemblies designs having *fire-resistance ratings* as determined by the test procedures set forth in ASTM E 119 or UL 263.
5. Alternative protection methods as allowed by Section 104.11.

**703.4 Noncombustibility tests.** The tests indicated in Sections 703.4.1 and 703.4.2 shall serve as criteria for acceptance of building materials as set forth in Sections 602.2, 602.3 and 602.4 in Type I, II, III and IV construction. The term "noncombustible" does not apply to the flame spread characteristics of *interior finish* or *trim* materials. A material shall not be classified as a noncombustible building construction material if it is subject to an increase in combustibility or flame spread beyond the limitations herein established through the effects of age, moisture or other atmospheric conditions.

**703.4.1 Elementary materials.** Materials required to be noncombustible shall be tested in accordance with ASTM E 136.

**703.4.2 Composite materials.** Materials having a structural base of noncombustible material as determined in accordance with Section 703.4.1 with a surfacing not more than 0.125 inch (3.18 mm) thick that has a *flame spread index* not greater than 50 when tested in accordance with ASTM E 84 or UL 723 shall be acceptable as noncombustible materials.

**703.5 Fire-resistance-rated glazing.** Fire-resistance-rated glazing, when tested in accordance with ASTM E 119 or UL 263 and complying with the requirements of Section 707, shall be permitted. Fire-resistance-rated glazing shall bear a *label* or other identification showing the name of the manufacturer, the test standard and the identifier "W-XXX," where the "XXX" is the *fire-resistance rating* in minutes. Such *label* or identification shall be issued by an agency and shall be permanently affixed to the glazing.

**703.6 Marking and identification.** *Fire walls, fire barriers, fire partitions, smoke barriers* and smoke partitions or any other wall required to have protected openings or penetrations

shall be effectively and permanently identified with signs or stenciling. Such identification shall:

1. Be located in accessible concealed floor, floor-ceiling or *attic* spaces;
2. Be repeated at intervals not exceeding 30 feet (914 mm) measured horizontally along the wall or partition; and
3. Include lettering not less than 0.5 inch (12.7 mm) in height, incorporating the suggested wording: "FIRE AND/OR SMOKE BARRIER—PROTECT ALL OPENINGS," or other wording.

**Exception:** Walls in Group R-2 occupancies that do not have a removable decorative ceiling allowing access to the concealed space.

## SECTION 704 FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING OF STRUCTURAL MEMBERS

**704.1 Requirements.** The *fire-resistance ratings* of structural members and assemblies shall comply with this section and the requirements for the type of construction as specified in Table 601. The *fire-resistance ratings* shall not be less than the ratings required for the fire-resistance-rated assemblies supported by the structural members.

**Exception:** *Fire barriers, fire partitions, smoke barriers* and *horizontal assemblies* as provided in Sections 707.5, 709.4, 710.4 and 712.4, respectively.

**704.2 Column protection.** Where columns are required to be fire-resistance rated, the entire column shall be provided individual encasement protection by protecting it on all sides for the full column length, including connections to other structural members, with materials having the required *fire-resistance rating*. Where the column extends through a ceiling, the encasement protection shall be continuous from the top of the foundation or floor/ceiling assembly below through the ceiling space to the top of the column.

**704.3 Protection of the primary structural frame other than columns.** Members of the primary structural frame other than columns that are required to have a *fire-resistance rating* and support more than two floors or one floor and roof, or support a *load-bearing wall* or a nonload-bearing wall more than two *stories* high, shall be provided individual encasement protection by protecting them on all sides for their full length, including connections to other structural members, with materials having the required *fire-resistance rating*.

**Exception:** Individual encasement protection on all sides shall be permitted on all exposed sides provided the extent of protection is in accordance with the required *fire-resistance rating*, as determined in Section 703.

**704.4 Protection of secondary members.** Secondary members that are required to have a *fire-resistance rating* shall be protected by individual encasement protection, by the membrane or ceiling of a *horizontal assembly* in accordance with Section 712, or by a combination of both.