



## METHOD FOR INSPECTING INTERIOR JOINT TREATED GYPSUM PANEL SURFACES

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### 1. SCOPE

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The purpose of this document is to provide a visual evaluation method for inspecting joint treated gypsum panel surfaces.

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### 2. TERMINOLOGY

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The following definitions are applicable to this document.

**decoration (n):** The application of paints, coatings and / or wall coverings.

**gypsum panel products (n):** The general name for a family of sheet products consisting essentially of gypsum. – **ASTM C11**

**inspection lighting (adj):** Inspection lighting shall be representative of normal lighting conditions in intensity and location.

**normal lighting conditions (adj) -** Normal lighting conditions are described as those in place when the project is finished. This includes, but not limited to, design lighting (e.g. wall washers, spots and floods, etc) and natural lighting." - **PDCA**

**normal viewing position (adj) –**The normal viewing position shall be at any angle provided it is established at a minimum distance of five feet perpendicular from the surface to be viewed.

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### 3. VISUAL EVALUATION

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The following method has been established as a guide.

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#### **3.1 Conditions for Inspection**

#### **3.2 Visual Evaluation**

#### **3.1 Conditions for Inspection**

**3.1.1** The level of Gypsum Board Finish should be established in advance of work and be reflective with levels described in; GA-214 "Recommended Levels of Gypsum Board Finish", NWCB "Recommended Levels For Finishing Of Gypsum Board", and/or equivalent.

**3.1.2** A jobsite standard of the joint treated gypsum panel substrate shall be constructed for the purpose of establishing a level of visual appearance deemed acceptable.

**3.1.3** The jobsite standard shall be constructed in advance of work.



**3.1.4** The constructed jobsite standard shall be representative of the wall and ceiling configuration typically found at the jobsite.

**3.1.5** During the construction phase, jobsite conditions should be maintained in accordance with Drywall Finishing Council document titled, "*Interior Job Condition Specification For The Application of Drywall Joint Compounds, Drywall Textures, And Paint / Coatings*".

**3.1.6** Joint treated gypsum panel substrate(s) should be finished to the level(s) established by the jobsite specifying/approving entity.

**3.1.7** Joint treated gypsum panel surfaces shall be inspected prior to decoration.

**Note:** Where Levels 3, 4, and/or 5 Gypsum Board Finish is specified, the surface shall have a drywall primer and/or approved equivalent applied prior to inspection. It is not the intent of this document to direct, specify and/or limit installation of these products to a particular trade.

## **3.2 Visual Evaluation - Inspection Criteria**

**3.2.1** Provides a joint treated gypsum panel surface that meets the level of finish established by the accepted jobsite standard.

**3.2.2** Inspection lighting shall be representative of normal lighting conditions in intensity and location. Consideration shall be given to window treatment and/or any other decorative finishes that could affect lighting and viewing.

**3.2.3** A normal viewing position shall be used. Visual evaluation for acceptance can be determined from a normal viewing position, at any angle, provided it is established at a minimum distance of five feet perpendicular from the surface to be viewed.

**3.2.4** When viewed without magnification under occupancy conditions with normal lighting conditions and from a normal viewing position, a level of visual appearance is achieved as established by the approved jobsite standard.

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## **4. COMMENTS**

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**Intent** – This performance description is designed to minimize decorating problems that can occur due to surface variations between the gypsum panel surface and areas treated with joint compound.

**Surface Smoothness** – Because the joints and fasteners must be concealed with fill and finish coats of joint compound, it is impossible to achieve a finished surface that is a flat plane. Instead, the joints and fasteners are finished with graduated arcs designed to prevent recesses or ridges that result in distinct shadows in critical light.

**Environmental Control** – Temperature, humidity, and airflow should remain constant, and as close to occupancy conditions as possible. The potential for finishing and decorating problems is minimal when job environmental conditions match occupancy environmental conditions. Controlling and maintaining environmental conditions is key. Changes and/or fluctuations in temperature, humidity, and airflow can have a profound adverse effect.

**Environmental Limitations / Considerations** – All products shall be applied and maintained in accordance with manufacturers recommendations.

**Environmental Conditions** – Follow the Drywall Finishing Council document titled, "*Interior Job Condition Specification for the Application of Drywall Joint Compounds, Drywall Textures, And Paint / Coatings*".



**Project Standard Specification** – A project standard of the approved wall and/or ceiling configurations shall be established to provide a visual sample constructed, finished, and decorated in accordance with applicable project specifications. As a guideline, refer to PDCA P5-94 titled, “*Benchmark Sample Procedures For Paint and Other Coating Systems*”.

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## 5. RESOURCES

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**ASTM C-11.** *Standard Terminology Relating to Gypsum and Related Building Materials and Systems.* American Society for Testing and Materials, West Conshohocken PA

**DWFC.** *Interior Job Condition Specifications For The Application of Drywall Joint Compounds, Drywall Textures, and Paint / Coatings.* Drywall Finishing Council Incorporated, Garden Grove CA

**DWFC.** *Recommended Specification for Preparation of Gypsum Board Surfaces Prior To Texture Application.* Drywall Finishing Council Incorporated, Garden Grove CA

**FSCT.** *Coatings Encyclopedic Dictionary.* Federation of Societies for Coatings Technology, Blue Bell PA

**GA-214-96.** *Recommended Levels of Gypsum Board Finish.* Gypsum Association, Washington DC

**GA-216-04.** *Application and Finishing of Gypsum Panel Products.* Gypsum Association, Washington DC

**PDCA, Glossary of Terms.** Painting and Decorating Contractors of America, Fairfax VA

**PDCA, Standard P5-94.** *Benchmark Sample Procedures for Paint and Other Coating Systems.* Painting and Decorating Contractors of America, Fairfax VA  
**EXAMPLE - ASTM C-11.** *Standard Terminology Relating to Gypsum and Related Building Materials and Systems.* American Society for Testing and Materials, West Conshohocken PA

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