

1. Scope

- 1.1. The purpose of this standard is to establish guidelines for the acceptance of wallcovering installations.
- 1.2. This standard encompasses any project requiring the installation of wallcoverings listed in section 4.13.1 through 4.13.11.

2. Significance and Use

- 2.1. This standard establishes a guideline for the acceptance of installation quality and is limited to proper seaming practices, pattern match, verticality, and cleanliness of appearance.
- 2.2. The contracting entity is the final judge in all matters related to the acceptance of the wallcovering installation.
- 2.3. Inspection and acceptance of surfaces and wallcovering material(s) prior to installation are separate from this standard. Refer to related documents in Section 3.

3. Reference Documents and Standards

- 3.1. ASTM, E284-02b, Standard Terminology of Appearance.
- 3.2. ASTM, C840-01, Standard Specification for Application and Finishing of Gypsum Board.
- 3.3. ASTM, F1141, Specification for Wallcovering.
- 3.4. PDCA Standard P1, Touch Up Painting and Damage Repair: Financial Responsibilities.
- 3.5. PDCA Standard P2, Third Party Inspection: Qualifications, Responsibilities, Procedures.
- 3.6. PDCA Standard P4, Responsibilities for Inspection and Acceptance of Surfaces Prior to Painting and Decorating.
- 3.7. PDCA Standard P9 – Definition of Trade Terms
- 3.8. PDCA Painting and Decorating Craftsman’s Manual and Textbook, 1995, 8th edition.
- 3.9. PDRA, Wallcovering Problem Solver, 2nd edition.
- 3.10. Recommended Levels of Gypsum Board Finish, GA214-96, published by the Gypsum Association and endorsed by AWCI, PDCA, GA and CISCA.
- 3.11. Wallcovering Hanging Instructions (joint publication of the Wallcovering Association, Painting and Decorating Contractors of America, Wallcovering Installers Association and Painting and Decorating Retailers Association).
- 3.12. Installation instructions, as supplied with wallcovering material by the manufacturer.
- 3.13. Black’s Law Dictionary, 7th Edition, Bryan A. Garner, 1999.
- 3.14. Webster’s New World Collegiate Dictionary, 4th Edition, 2002.

- 3.15. If there is a conflict between any of these references and this standard, the requirements of this standard shall prevail.

4. Definitions

- 4.1. ACCEPTANCE: An agreement, either by express act or by implication from conduct, to the terms of an offer so that a binding contract is formed. If an acceptance modifies the terms or adds new ones, it generally operates as a counteroffer. [Black's Law]
- 4.2. AWCI: Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industries International
- 4.3. CISCA: Ceilings and Interior Systems Construction Association
- 4.4. CONTRACTING ENTITY: The general contractor, owner of the property, construction manager, developer or other entity legally responsible for the agreement, or authorized agent of any of the above. [PDCA Standard P9]
- 4.5. FINISHED LIGHTING: Finished lighting conditions are described as those in place when the project is finished. This includes, but is not limited to, design lighting (e.g., wall washers, spots, floods, etc.) and natural lighting (e.g., skylights, clear view windows, window walls, window treatments, etc.). [PDCA Standard P9]
- 4.6. GA: Gypsum Association
- 4.7. INSPECTION LIGHTING: Illumination of the installed surface from an angle at an intensity sufficient to eliminate any shadowing that may be caused by other illumination striking the surface at any angle. [PDCA Standard P9]
- 4.8. NORMAL VIEWING POSITION: For the purpose of inspection, a normal viewing position shall be at eye level at a minimum of thirty-nine (39) inches or one (1) meter from the wall. Inspection lighting can be used as defined in this standard. [PDCA Standard P9]
- 4.9. PAINTING AND DECORATING CONTRACTOR: The individual or company contracted to apply paints, coatings, wallcoverings and other decorative finishes. [PDCA Standard P9]
- 4.10. SHADING: Variation created in the manufacturing process, in the color, texture or gloss within the same strip of a wallcovering. [ASTM]
- 4.11. VERTICALITY: (Vertical) - at a right angle to the plane of the horizon; upright, straight up or down, etc.; upright position. [Webster's]
- 4.12. WALLCOVERING INSTALLER, syn. PAPERHANGER: The individual responsible for the installation of wallpaper or wallcovering. [PDCA Standard P9]
- 4.13. WALLCOVERING, syn. WALLPAPER: Any type of paper, vinyl, fabric or specialty material that is pasted onto a wall or ceiling for decoration and/or protection. Wallcoverings come in a wide array of colors, patterns, textures and performance characteristics, such as washability and abrasion resistance. [Craftsman's]

For the purpose of this standard, wallcoverings shall be limited to the following:

- 4.13.1. Residential vinyl coated paper (peelable and strippable).
- 4.13.2. Residential or Type I fabric backed, woven, vinyl wallcovering.

- 4.13.3. Residential paper backed vinyl (solid vinyl) peelable wallcovering.
- 4.13.4. Residential standard/ untreated paper.
- 4.13.5. Commercial Type II or III fabric backed vinyl wallcovering.
- 4.13.6. Textile commercial wallcovering.
- 4.13.7. Flocked wallcovering.
- 4.13.8. Foil wallcovering.
- 4.13.9. Natural material, such as grass cloth, strings and cork wallcovering.
- 4.13.10. Fiberglass wallcovering, paintable or prefinished.
- 4.13.11. Acoustical wallcovering.
- 4.14. WALLCOVERING CONTRACTOR: See 4.9.

5. Standard Specification

- 5.1. The manufacturer and purchaser (or purchaser's agent) of the wallcovering shall inspect the wallcovering for defects, prior to installation.
 - 5.1.1. The purchaser must report any discrepancies in the wallcovering pattern, texture or color to the wallcovering manufacturer or distributor as soon as possible, to avoid installation disputes.
- 5.2. The contracting entity shall inspect surfaces prepared by others for compliance with the manufacturer and installer's surface requirements.
 - 5.2.1. Wallcoverings are a prefinished item and should only be installed in a controlled environment where permanent heating is provided to maintain and guarantee ambient and substrate temperatures at a minimum of sixty-five (65) degrees Fahrenheit. If the contracting entity provides temporary heating to accelerate a building schedule, the temporary heating must be maintained in areas where wallcoverings have been installed, until ambient temperatures reach sixtyfive (65) degrees Fahrenheit. Temperature must be maintained for at least three (3) weeks after the last strip has been installed.
- 5.3. Wallcovering is deemed properly installed when:
 - 5.3.1. Adhesion is complete with no loose or curling edges, lifting seams, air bubbles or paste bumps.
 - 5.3.2. Pattern match is achieved.
 - 5.3.3. Wallcovering is installed plumb or square. Note: A pattern may appear out of square due to a substrate or construction defect that is beyond the control of the installer.
 - 5.3.4. Wallcovering is free from visible shrinkage.
 - 5.3.5. Seams are properly trimmed, with no frayed edges, allowing for pattern match and without evidence of excessive pressure that would score the substrate and affect adhesion.
 - 5.3.6. Wallcovering surface is free from adhesive residue.

- 5.4. Color shading is inherent in natural and simulated natural materials and should be expected.
- 5.5. Upon completion, a visual inspection by the contracting entity should occur in order to determine compliance with this standard.
 - 5.5.1. The acceptability of the surface shall be determined when viewed without magnification, at a distance of thirty-nine (39) inches or one (1) meter or more, under finished lighting conditions and from a normal viewing position.
 - 5.5.1.1. Inspection lighting conditions will allow the finished surface to be viewed with minimal distortion, which may be caused by the quality of the substrate preparation and/or illumination at an acute angle.
 - 5.5.2. Damage caused by parties other than the painting and decorating contractor or its workforce is considered damage by others and shall be repaired or replaced as specified in PDCA
- 5.6. Standard P1, Touch Up Painting and Damage Repair: Financial Responsibility.

6. Comments

- 6.1. This standard acknowledges the areas of wallcovering installation within the control of the painting and decorating contractor. Use of this standard avoids time-consuming disputes pertaining to the wallcovering material that can only be resolved with the participation of the wallcovering manufacturer and/or distributor.
- 6.2. Latent damage is due to conditions beyond the control of the painting and decorating contractor. This damage is caused by conditions not apparent at the time of initial painting and decorating. The painting and decorating contractor will repair and/or repaint the damaged area after receiving acceptance of its proposal and authorization to proceed on either a lump sum or time and material basis, as specified in PDCA Standard P1, Touch Up Painting and Damage Repair: Financial Responsibility.
- 6.3. This standard clarifies areas of responsibility. Improved communication reduces misunderstandings.
- 6.4. This standard is a nationally recognized consensus document for the painting and decorating industry's work practices.

7. Disclaimer of Liability

- 7.1. PDCA does not warrant or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any of the information contained herein.