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Master
Specification
No. 285

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF STANDARDS
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MASTER SPECIFICATION FOR
GYPSUM PLASTER BOARD

FEDERAL SPECIFICATIONS BOARD SPECIFICATION No. 285

This specification was officially promulgated by the Federal Specifications Board on March 28, 1925, for the use of the Departments and Independent Establishments of the Government in the purchase of gypsum plaster board

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I. TYPE

One type of gypsum plaster board is covered by this specification.

II. MATERIAL AND WORKMANSHIP

Gypsum plaster board consists of set gypsum plaster, with or without fiber, reinforced on the surfaces with sheets of fibrous material.

The nominal dimensions of a gypsum plaster board are 32 by 36 by 3/8 inches.

The surface of a gypsum plaster board shall be such that it will readily receive and retain gypsum plaster. The edges and ends shall be reasonably straight and solid and the corners square. They shall be free from cracks and imperfections which would render them unfit for use.

III. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. DIMENSION TOLERANCES

- (a) THICKNESS.—A tolerance of $\pm \frac{1}{16}$ inch is permissible.
- (b) WIDTH.—A tolerance of $-\frac{1}{4}$ inch is permissible.
- (c) LENGTH.—A tolerance of $\pm \frac{3}{8}$ inch is permissible.

2. WEIGHT

Gypsum plaster board shall weigh not less than 1,500 pounds nor more than 2,000 pounds per 1,000 square feet.

3. STRENGTH

When the load is applied through a knife-edge parallel to the fibers of the surfacing material, the board shall withstand a pressure of at least 20 pounds; when the knife-edge is at right angles to the fibers, the breaking load shall be at least 40 pounds.

4. BOND

With loads equal to or less than those specified in Section III, 3, there shall be no breaking of the bond between the fibrous surfacing material and the plaster core.

IV. DETAIL REQUIREMENTS

No details specified.

V. METHOD OF INSPECTION AND TEST

1. SAMPLING

One per cent of the number of boards in a shipment, but not less than 10 boards, shall be so selected as to be representative of the shipment. Twenty-five per cent of such selected boards, but not less than 10 boards, shall constitute a sample for test.

2. STRENGTH TEST

Two specimens, each 12 by 18 inches, shall be cut from each board in the sample, one having the 18-inch dimension parallel to the fibers in the surfacing material, and the other at right angles to them. Each specimen is placed on two parallel knife-edges 16 inches apart and loaded at midspan through a third knife-edge parallel to the other two. The breaking load is noted, and the bond, as defined

under Section III, 4, is observed. The average strength of the 10 specimens cut from the boards in each direction is computed and compared with the representative requirements in Section III, 3.

VI. PACKING AND MARKING

Gypsum plaster board shall be packed in such a way as to be kept reasonably dry.

Gypsum plaster board shall be stamped on each board with the name of the manufacturer and the brand, if any.

VII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Gypsum plaster boards $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick may be had for special purposes.

VIII. GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

No details specified.

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