

# USE AND LIMITATIONS OF DRYWALL SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARD DETAILS

## Specification information

GPA members offer and provide gypsum plasterboard system solutions based on a set of design performance criteria supplied by the principal designer. For each system they typically provide a specification document that outlines the system build-up, the performances of the system, and a set of typical details. GPA members may also offer warranties if specific technical and commercial criteria are met.

The project design team (principal designer and/or principal contractor) are then responsible for translating and suitably integrating this information into the overarching architectural design. This will include the architect's specification document and construction issue details or BIM model, which are all specific to that building's performance strategy, including fire, acoustics, thermal, air tightness, robustness, moisture resistance, etc.

## Detailing and Junctions

Regarding interfaces of drywall systems and penetrations, there are many variants for the project design team to consider as performance requirements and internal building layouts will differ for every project.

GPA members can assist and provide a range of example details which portray recommended basic principles of system arrangement at junctions and interfaces. These typical details are not site or project specific hence the importance of including design caveats to outline these limitations.

By agreement GPA members may be able to develop project specific detailing in collaboration with the design team. These details would be based on information and performance requirements provided by the design team and no assumptions can be made by GPA members. The project design team would need to satisfy themselves that these details are appropriate for the project's requirements. GPA members do not control the design or build process and are not appointed to the project, therefore they cannot be aware of all relevant design information, including performance strategies and other building elements, and any changes to these throughout the project life cycle which may impact the final design. It is also worth noting that:

- Drywall systems are designed to sit within the building superstructure. The superstructure is designed by others.
- Recognised testing standards for interface and junction detailing do not exist nor required by building regulations. In specific cases where standards are not available, where possible within the scope of testing laboratories capabilities, ad-hoc or bespoke testing may be used to inform details for acceptance by the project design team. The GPA member should be consulted. The scope and limitations of this testing should be clearly defined and understood by all parties.
- Penetrations and doors through drywall systems, e.g. size, location etc., are required to be supported by testing by the fire-stopping and door suppliers respectively

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Even when asked to provide bespoke details for site specific solutions, GPA members are not necessarily aware of all facts, e.g. site conditions, precise layout, requirements etc. and so when project specific details are issued by the manufacturer it is the responsibility of the principal designer to give ultimate approval.

A GPA member's responsibility lies with providing relevant substantiation to support their proposed system solutions covering performance requirements such as fire, acoustic, mechanical, and other technical characteristics. Where testing is required to substantiate, this can only be conducted according to appropriate, available and recognised standards on isolated, imperforate specimens.

### OUR MEMBERS:

