Specifying the correct ASTM-tested products

Because you can never be too careful, ASTM testing exists. This industry standard provides protocols to predict a building product’s level of vulnerability when a specific condition is introduced. This includes replicating an atmosphere that induces mold growth.

But as you know, some environments will facilitate mold growth faster and easier than others. And this is where the subtleties of specifying come in.

According to Pat Grotlisch, NGC construction design manager for the Western region, “It is well known that incomplete, inaccurate or outdated specifications provide opportunities for lower-cost products to be substituted on projects. If the specs are written more accurately, there is a greater possibility that the owner will receive the solution the architect intended.”

You may be specifying an ASTM-tested product that prevents mold growth, but are you specifying the best product for your particular project?

ASTM D 3273 is the standard test method for mold resistance. This is how the building industry quantifies mold growth on gypsum board. But if you specify only ASTM D 3273 to acquire your mold and moisture resistant products, this isn’t specific enough.

ASTM C 1658 is the standard specification for fiberglass-mat panels (think Gold Bond® BRAND eXP® Interior Extreme® Gypsum Panel). ASTM C 1396 is the standard product specification for gypsum board with mold and moisture resistance (think Gold Bond® BRAND XP® Gypsum Board with SporgardTM*). So if you need one of these products for your project, what would your specification look like? Write your specifications around the standard product and then add ASTM D 3273 as a test reference to support your specification.

For instance, if you would like to specify a product equivalent to XP Gypsum Board, it would be more accurate to specify ASTM C 1396 with ASTM D 3273 as the test reference. Or if you want a gypsum board that features enhanced mold resistance as well as ramped-up weather-exposure resistance, like the eXP Interior Extreme Gypsum Panel offers, you should specify ASTM C 1658 with ASTM D 3273 as the test reference.

As Tina Cannedy, NGC construction design manager for the Southwestern region and ASTM E06.58 committee vice chair, says, “ASTM standards can get confusing; there are always multiple standards that address similar tests methods for different industries. We are here to help you get the appropriate standards for the right product.”

Since your work is precise, using the correct specifications will get you precisely what you need.

For help, contact your construction design manager today. We’re here to support you and your projects.

*Sporgard is a trademark of LANXESS Corporation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRODUCT</th>
<th>ASTM Product Specification</th>
<th>ASTM Test Reference</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold Bond Gypsum Board</td>
<td>ASTM C 1396</td>
<td>ASTM D 3273</td>
<td>Paper-faced Gypsum Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Bond XP Gypsum Board</td>
<td>ASTM C 1396</td>
<td>ASTM D 3273</td>
<td>Paper-faced, Mold Resistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eXP Interior Extreme Gypsum Panels</td>
<td>ASTM C 1658</td>
<td>ASTM D 3273</td>
<td>12-Month Exposure Warranty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eXP Tile Backer</td>
<td>ASTM C 1178</td>
<td>ASTM D 3273</td>
<td>IBC Code Compliant for Wet Areas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASTM was established in 1898.

ASTM International stands for American Society for Testing and Materials.

There are 12,000 ASTM standards worldwide to improve product quality, enhance safety, and build consumer confidence.

50 percent of all ASTM standards are used outside the U.S.

All National Gypsum interior gypsum board and interior panel products have achieved GREENGUARD GOLD Certification for indoor air quality, the highest industry standard in the U.S.

ASTM D 3273 is the recognized, standard test reference to test for the growth of mold on gypsum board products.

ASTM C 1658 is the standard for both fiberglass-faced interior panels and shaftwall liner.

ASTM C 1178 eXP® Tile Backer and C 1325 PermaBase® Cement Board are the only two standards recognized for use in wet areas by the International Building Code (IBC).