

Workmanship on building sites

Part 8. Code of practice for plasterboard partitions and dry linings

CAWS K10

Qualité d'exécution des travaux sur chantier
Partie 8. Code de bonne pratique pour le
placoplâtre et revêtements à sec

Baustellenarbeiten
Teil 8. Leitfaden für Zwischenwände und
Bekleidungen aus Gipskartonplatten

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Foreword

This Part of BS 8000 has been prepared under the direction of the Council for Building and Civil Engineering. It makes recommendations and gives guidance on basic workmanship for conventional types of building work.

The recommendations given are not necessarily comprehensive; particular project documents, e.g. project specifications, may need to cover particular recommendations not dealt with by this code of practice.

This code of practice is unique in that unlike other British Standards, it draws together recommendations given in other codes of practice.

The purpose of this code of practice is to encourage good workmanship by providing the following:

- (a) the most frequently required recommendations on workmanship for building work in a readily available and convenient form to those working on site;
- (b) assistance in the efficient preparation and administration of contracts;
- (c) recommendations on how designer's requirements for workmanship may be satisfactorily realized;
- (d) definitions of good practice on building sites for supervision and for training purposes; this guidance is not intended to supplant the normal training in craft skills;
- (e) a reference for quality of workmanship on building sites.

It is recognized that design, procurement and project information should be conducive to good workmanship on site.

During the preparation of this code of practice the Building Industry's Co-ordinating Committee for Project Information (CCPI), produced a Common Arrangement of Work Sections (CAWS) for building work. This code of practice has generally been arranged in accordance with the Common Arrangement so that it can be used easily with project specifications and bills of quantities using this arrangement. Other major documents are being restructured in accordance with the Common Arrangement.

NOTE. The CCPI was sponsored by the Association of Consulting Engineers, the Building Employers' Confederation, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Royal Institute of British Architects.

When complete BS 8000 will comprise the following Parts.

- Part 1. Code of practice for excavation and filling
- Part 2. Code of practice for concrete work
- Part 3. Code of practice for masonry
- Part 4. Code of practice for waterproofing
- Part 5. Code of practice for carpentry, joinery and general fixings
- Part 6. Code of practice for roof, slate, tile covering and cladding
- Part 7. Code of practice for glazing
- Part 8. Code of practice for plasterboard partitions and dry linings
- Part 9. Code of practice for cement/sand floor screeds and concrete floor toppings
- Part 10. Code of practice for plastering and rendering
- Part 11. Code of practice for wall and floor tiling
- Part 12. Code of practice for decorative wall coverings and painting
- Part 13. Code of practice for above ground drainage and sanitary appliances
- Part 14. Code of practice for below ground drainage
- Part 15. Code of practice for hot and cold water services (domestic scale)

Technical Committee CAB/5, Anhydrite, gypsum and lime, has also participated in the preparation of this Part of BS 8000 and the content is based on and consistent with that of BS 8212 and BS 5234. However, BS 8212 and BS 5234 cover the subject matter more comprehensively and include design, materials and other related aspects in addition to workmanship on site.

The text of this Part of BS 8000 includes commentaries and figures. These commentaries are separately identified and are intended to be for guidance only and do not form part of the recommendations. They refer, unless otherwise stated, to the clause which immediately precedes each commentary.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Section 1. General

1.1 Scope

This Part of BS 8000 gives recommendations on basic workmanship and covers those tasks which are frequently carried out in relation to plasterboard partitions and dry linings.

For design aspects of plasterboard partitions and dry linings reference should be made to BS 5234.

NOTE. This code of practice includes supplementary elements in the form of commentaries to assist in its use and understanding. Compliance with the commentaries is not necessary in order to be able to claim conformity with the standard.

1.2 References

1.2.1 Normative references

This Part of BS 8000 incorporates, by reference, provisions from specific editions of other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate

points in the text and the publications are listed on the inside back cover. Subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications apply to this Part of BS 8000 only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision.

1.2.2 Informative references

This Part of BS 8000 refers to other publications that provide information or guidance. Editions of these publications current at the time of issue of this standard are listed on the inside back cover, but reference should be made to the latest editions.

1.3 Definitions

For the purposes of this Part of BS 8000, the definitions given in BS 6100 : Section 1.0 : 1984 and BS 6100 : Subsection 1.3.3 : 1987 apply.

Section 2. Materials handling and preparation

2.1 Checking, handling and site storage of materials and components

2.1.1 Checking

Check delivery tickets and certificates against the specification. Examine marks and labels and the condition of materials and components. If necessary refer to the supplier immediately.

In particular check that:

- (a) materials and components are clean, undamaged and dry;
- (b) gypsum plasterboard sheets are the correct type and have the required dimensions and edge profiles.

2.1.2 Handling and site storage

2.1.2.1 Handling gypsum plasterboard and partition units. Handle gypsum plasterboard and partition units carefully. In particular observe the following.

- (a) Do not let gypsum plasterboard get wet. If practicable, keep it in the wrappings in which it was delivered.
- (b) Carry boards on edge; pick them up and place them down on edge to avoid breakage when laying flat.
- (c) Do not drag boards or units over each other.
- (d) If boards are bound in pairs to protect their surfaces, do not separate them until necessary.
- (e) If slings are used for lifting, stack boards and panels on a clean, dry platform so that they do not overhang; keep slings away from the board edges by using spreaders to avoid damage to the edge.
- (f) If transporting boards or units by dumper, crane or forklift truck, use a supporting platform.

2.1.2.2 Storage Store materials and components in clean, dry conditions as follows.

- (a) Store boards and partition units off the ground and horizontally on a level base consisting of a timber platform or bearers at least 100 mm wide laid across the width of the boards or units at centres not exceeding 400 mm (see figure 1). If they are not stored in a weatherproof building, completely cover the stack with a weatherproof sheet secured all round. Protect from damp rising from below the stack. Unless special provisions are made, do not stack

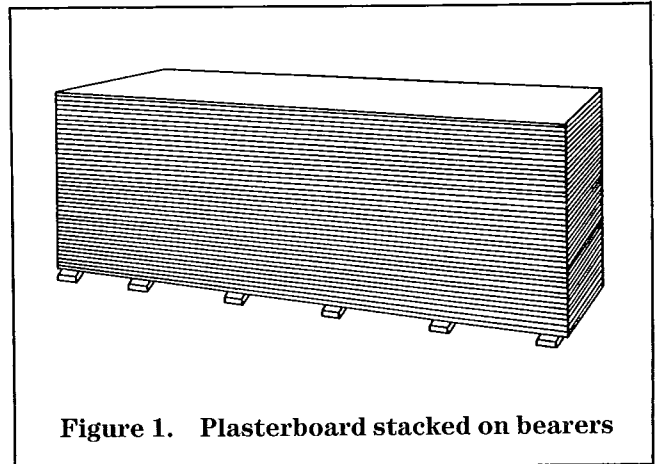


Figure 1. Plasterboard stacked on bearers

boards to a height more than 1 m. Do not stack partition units more than 36 units high, nor to a height of more than 1.2 m if they are to be handled manually.

- (b) Store metal, gypsum plaster cove and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) sections flat and supported along their length to prevent distortion and breakage. Take care not to damage galvanized coatings.
- (c) Store bags and containers of jointing and adhesive so they can be used in date rotation. Do not open them until required and use them within the stated shelf life. Protect them from extremes of temperature. Follow any storage instructions given by the manufacturer.

2.2 Preparation of work, materials and components

2.2.1 General

2.2.1.1 Liaison. Liaise with site management and determine:

- (a) trade sequences to provide continuity of work;
- (b) the requirements and responsibilities for setting out;
- (c) satisfactory provisions for the storage of materials;
- (d) satisfactory provision for the utility services required for the erection;
- (e) requirements for the clearing of rubbish and the protection of work.

2.2.1.2 Working conditions

- (a) Check that working areas are weatherproof.
- (b) Ensure that window frames, including glazing or temporary protection to openings, and other joinery first-fix items are in position and relevant first-fixings of other trades are complete.
- (c) Check that working areas are clean, dry and free from obstruction.
- (d) Check the level of lighting is adequate; ensure the provision of artificial lighting if considered necessary.

COMMENTARY. *Because the direction of artificial lighting may affect the extent to which inaccuracies may be noticed in the final inspection of the finished job, any artificial lighting ought to simulate the final lighting scheme as closely as possible.*

2.2.1.3 Distributed components and materials. When the materials and components are distributed to the work position ensure that the structure is not overloaded; obtain advice about any restrictions.

2.2.1.4 Cleanliness and protection

- (a) Keep all plant and tools in a clean and serviceable condition.
- (b) Protect all existing finished work and approaches with boards and dust sheets as appropriate. Clean any plaster droppings immediately from finished surfaces.
- (c) Maintain the protection of materials and components at the work position to prevent their deterioration before use.

2.2.2 Suitability of backgrounds

Before applying any linings check that backgrounds are suitable.

- (a) Check that backgrounds are constructed to a sufficient standard of line and plumb, so that any specified limits of accuracy for fixings and of surfaces are achievable (see 3.1.1.1).
- (b) Check that backgrounds are complete, that apertures and services are incorporated and that noggings are fixed in the required positions. Check that timber backgrounds already fixed are of adequate size and strength to secure fixing for linings as follows:

(1) *timber battens to solid backgrounds*: not less than 44 mm wide and 38 mm thick, preservative treated where necessary;

(2) *timber framing for walls and partitions*: bearing surface of timbers to receive abutting edges of boards not less than 38 mm wide;

(3) *timber framing for ceilings*: bearing surface of timbers to receive abutting ends or cut edges of boards not less than 41 mm; noggings to receive paper bound edges of not less than 38 mm basic thickness; perimeter framing to receive one edge or cut end not less than 25 mm basic thickness.

Check that timber backgrounds are at the required centres and are aligned and plumbed as for (a) (see also 3.1.1.5).

(c) Check that the surface of the background is sound, free from dust and sufficiently dry so as not to impair a good bond or fixing. If the backgrounds appear to be unsuitable seek instructions.

COMMENTARY. *There are two cases where experience has shown that the above recommendations for the sizes of timber backgrounds can be modified.*

(a) *In the case of trussed rafters designed and manufactured in accordance with BS 5268: Part 3, having a span of not more than 11 m and being fixed in a building in which the plasterboard ceiling of (maximum thickness 12.5 mm) will not be affected by regular foot traffic from above, the face width of the timber should be not less than 35 mm as measured in accordance with BS 4471. No negative tolerance is permissible on the 35 mm dimension.*

(b) *In the case of a domestic floor joist supporting a plasterboard ceiling, the face width of sawn or processed timber should be not less than 38 mm as measured in accordance with BS 4471.*

Section 3. Installation of plasterboard partitions and dry linings

3.1 Fixings

3.1.1 Accuracy

3.1.1.1 General. Within practical limits according to the method of lining, correct the general inaccuracies in backgrounds to achieve the specified finished surface accuracy. If it is impractical to achieve this, obtain instructions.

Limits of surface accuracy, if not given in the project specification, should be as given in 3.1.1.2 to 3.1.1.7.

3.1.1.2 Setting out of partitions and independent linings. Where the framework of a partition or a lining is independent of the structure, the deviation from the setting out positions is to be within:

- (a) the offset on plan from an agreed line or position, measured at the setting out level (ceiling or floor), ± 3 mm;
- (b) the offset from vertical, measured above or below the setting out position (ceiling or floor), ± 5 mm.

3.1.1.3 Finished surfaces of partitions and independent linings. The deviations in the position of a finished surface of a partition or lining from the straight line connecting the end points of the partition is to be within a band of 10 mm as shown in figure 2.

Take the measurements at approximately 600 mm above the finished floor level accompanied by measurements of the partitions or linings vertically at the measuring points.

COMMENTARY. *The method of measurement should be by laser or optical instruments. In small buildings, e.g. housing, a simplified method of measurement may be used on partition or lining runs up to 5 m (see figure 3).*

3.1.1.4 Finished surfaces of linings to solid backgrounds. Provided the inaccuracies in the solid background are such that they can be accommodated within the thickness of the particular adhesive used, deviations in the position of the finished surface are to be as given in 3.1.1.3.

3.1.1.5 Localized build-up of the surface

- (a) *Crown of joint.* The maximum increase is not to exceed 3 mm when measured using a 450 mm straight edge. Take measurements with the ends supported on board to board surfaces (see figure 4(a)).
- (b) *External angles.* The maximum increase is not to exceed 4 mm projection from either face when measured as shown in figure 4(b) using the external angle reference edge shown in figure 5.
- (c) *Internal angles.* The maximum increase is not to exceed 5 mm projection from either face when measured as shown in figure 4(c) using the internal angle reference edge shown in figure 5.
- (d) *Boxed studs.* The increased thickness of the partition is not to exceed 4 mm.
- (e) *Around openings (door heads, access panels and backing plates).* The maximum increase to allow the partition or linings to conform with the recommendations given in 3.1.1.3.

3.1.1.6 Thickness of partitions. The thickness of a partition in its finished state is to be within a tolerance of ± 5 mm.

3.1.1.7 Prepared openings in partitions. Doors, access panels or other openings in partitions are to be within the following tolerances:

- (a) width: $+10$ mm;
 -0
- (b) height: $+5$ mm;
 -0

NOTE. These tolerances do not include residual deflections resulting from, for example, heavy fittings.