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## **Use and limitations of drywall specifications and standard details**

### **Specification information**

GPDA 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. GPDA 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.

GPDA 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.

GPDA 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 lifecycle 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.
- Interface and junction testing is not available, there are no recognised testing standards or laboratories who can conduct this – in particular, fire testing of interface and junctions is not achievable in practice nor required by building regulations.

- 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.

Even when asked to provide bespoke details for site specific solutions, GPDA 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 GPDA 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 recognized standards on isolated, imperforate specimens.

**GPDA members**

British Gypsum	<a href="http://www.british-gypsum.com">www.british-gypsum.com</a>	0115 945 6123
Etex	<a href="http://www.siniat.co.uk">www.siniat.co.uk</a>	0800 145 6033 or 01275 377789
Gyproc Ireland	<a href="http://www.gyproc.ie">www.gyproc.ie</a>	ROI 1800 744480, NI 0845 3990159
Knauf	<a href="http://www.knauf.co.uk">www.knauf.co.uk</a>	08000 304 135

**GPDA**

The role of the Gypsum Products Development Association (GPDA) is to develop and encourage the understanding of gypsum based building materials and systems. The Association provides a cohesive package of advice and information on all developments affecting the gypsum industry and communicates it to all aspects of the construction industry. Issues include the latest technical and product developments as well as training opportunities in the industry. Please check that you have the latest versions of our guidance notes by visiting [www.gpda.com](http://www.gpda.com) or email us on [admin@gpda.com](mailto:admin@gpda.com)