



Designation: C 1396/C 1396M – 04

Standard Specification for Gypsum Board¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C 1396/C 1396M; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope*

1.1 This specification covers the gypsum boards described in 1.1.1-1.1.9.

NOTE 1—Specifications C 840, C 841, C 844 and C 1280 contain application procedures for gypsum board.

1.1.1 *Gypsum wallboard*, designed for use on walls, ceilings, or partitions and that affords a surface suitable to receive decoration.

1.1.2 *Predecorated gypsum board*, designed for use as the finished surfacing for walls, ceilings, or partitions.

1.1.3 *Gypsum backing board, coreboard, and shaftliner board*, designed for use as a base in multilayer systems or as a gypsum stud or core in semisolid or solid gypsum board partitions, or in shaft wall assemblies.

NOTE 2—The terms backing board, coreboard, and shaftliner board refer to different end uses. The term gypsum backing board, as used in this specification, shall include gypsum coreboard and gypsum shaftliner board unless otherwise stated.

1.1.4 *Water-resistant gypsum backing board*, designed primarily to be used as a base for the application of ceramic or plastic tile on walls or ceilings. This product is also suitable for decoration.

1.1.5 *Exterior gypsum soffit board*, designed for use on exterior soffits and carport ceilings that are completely protected from contact with liquid water.

1.1.6 *Gypsum sheathing board*, designed for use as sheathing on buildings.

1.1.7 *Gypsum base for veneer plaster*, designed for use as a base for the application of gypsum veneer plaster.

1.1.8 *Gypsum lath*, designed for use as a base for the application of gypsum plaster.

1.1.9 *Gypsum ceiling board*, designed for use on interior ceilings with framing spaced not more than 24 in. [610 mm] on center and that affords a surface suitable to receive water-based texture and other decoration. This product is also suitable for use on interior walls.

1.2 Specifications applicable to all gypsum boards are located in Section 1-4 and 13-15. Specifications applicable to specific gypsum boards are located in the following sections:

| | Section |
|---|---------|
| Gypsum wallboard, predecorated gypsum board | 5 |
| Gypsum backing board, gypsum coreboard, gypsum shaftliner board | 6 |
| Water-resistant gypsum backing board | 7 |
| Exterior gypsum soffit board | 8 |
| Gypsum sheathing board | 9 |
| Gypsum base for veneer plaster | 10 |
| Gypsum lath | 11 |
| Gypsum Ceiling Board | 12 |

1.3 The values stated in either inch-pound units or SI (metric) are to be regarded separately as standard. Within the text, the SI units are shown in brackets. The values stated in each system shall be used independent of the other. Values from the two systems shall not be combined.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- C 11 Terminology Relating to Gypsum and Related Building Materials and Systems
- C 473 Test Methods for Physical Testing of Gypsum Panel Products
- C 645 Specification for Nonstructural Steel Framing Members
- C 840 Specification for Application and Finishing of Gypsum Board
- C 841 Specification for Installation of Interior Lathing and Furring
- C 844 Specification for Application of Gypsum Base to Receive Gypsum Veneer Plaster
- C 1264 Specification for Sampling, Inspection, Rejection, Certification, Packaging, Marking, Shipping, Handling, and Storage of Gypsum Board
- C 1280 Specification for Application of Gypsum Sheathing
- E 84 Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials
- E 96 Test Methods for Water Vapor Transmission of Materials

¹This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C11 on Gypsum and Related Building Materials and Systems and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C11.01 on Specifications and Test Methods for Gypsum Products.

Current edition approved May 1, 2004. Published June 2004. Originally approved in 1998. Last previous edition approved in 2003 as C 1396/C 1396M – 03a.

²For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard.

E 119 Test Methods for Fire Tests of Building Construction and Materials

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions used in this specification shall be in accordance with Terminology C 11.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *decorative coating, n*—a paint or other liquid material with or without aggregate.

3.2.2 *decorative sheet or film, n*—a plastic film, either backed or unbacked; plastic sheet; or combination of these.

3.2.3 *edge, n*—the bound edge as manufactured.

3.2.4 *gypsum backing board, n*—a ¼ to ⅝-in. [6.4 to 15.9-mm] gypsum board used as a backing for gypsum wallboard, acoustical tile, or other dry cladding.

3.2.5 *gypsum coreboard, n*—a ¾ to 1-in. [19.0 to 25.4-mm] gypsum board used as a gypsum stud or core in semisolid or solid gypsum board partitions.

4. Materials and Manufacture

4.1 Gypsum board shall consist of a noncombustible core, essentially gypsum, surfaced with paper bonded to the core.

4.1.1 Gypsum sheathing board shall consist of a noncombustible water-resistant core, essentially gypsum, surfaced on both the face and back with water-repellant paper bonded to the core.

4.1.2 Gypsum coreboard shall be either a single board or composed of two factory-laminated gypsum boards to provide up to 1 in. [25.4 mm] total nominal thickness.

4.1.3 Water-resistant gypsum backing board shall consist of a noncombustible water-resistant core, essentially gypsum, surfaced on both the back and face with water-repellant paper bonded to the core.

4.1.4 Predecorated gypsum board shall consist of a noncombustible core, essentially gypsum, surfaced with paper bonded to the core with the face covered with a decorative sheet, film, or coating.

4.1.4.1 Class I predecorated gypsum board shall have a decorative sheet or film laminated to the face.

4.1.4.2 Class II predecorated gypsum board shall have a decorative coating applied to the face.

4.2 The back surface of foil-backed gypsum board shall in addition be covered with aluminum foil.

4.3 *Gypsum Board, type X (Special Fire-Resistant):*

4.3.1 *Gypsum Board, type X*, designates gypsum board, except gypsum lath, gypsum coreboard, and gypsum shaftliner board, complying with this specification that provides not less than 1 h fire-resistance rating for boards ⅝ in. [15.9 mm] thick or ¾ h fire-resistance rating for boards ½ in. [12.7 mm] thick, applied parallel with and on each side of load bearing 2 by 4 wood studs spaced 16 in. [406 mm] on centers with 6d coated nails, 1⅞ in. [48 mm] long, 0.0915-in. [2.3-mm] diameter shank, ¼-in. [6.4-mm] diameter heads, spaced 7 in. [178 mm] on centers with gypsum board joints staggered 16 in. [406 mm] on each side of the partition and tested in accordance with Test Methods E 119.

4.3.2 *Gypsum Lath, type X* designates gypsum lath complying with this specification that provides not less than a 1-h fire-resistance rating for gypsum lath ⅜ in. [9.5 mm] thick,

when applied at right angles to and on each side of loadbearing 2 × 4 wood studs spaced 16 in. [406 mm] on centers with blue lath nails spaced 5 in. [127 mm] on centers over which is applied ½ in. [12.7 mm] 1:2 gypsum sand plaster and tested in accordance with the requirements of Test Method E 119.

NOTE 3—Consult producers for independent test data on assembly details and fire-resistance ratings for other types of construction. See fire test reports or listings from recognized fire testing laboratories for assembly particulars, materials, and ratings.

4.3.3 Gypsum shaftliner board, type X, designates gypsum shaftliner board complying with this specification that meets the acceptance criteria for temperature rise for not less than 1-½ h for boards ¾-in. [19.0 mm] thick or 2 h for boards 1-in. [25.4 mm] thick, when applied in a double layer solid nonload bearing partition as described in 4.3.3.1 and tested in accordance with Test Methods E 119 with thermocouple locations as specified in 4.3.3.2.

4.3.3.1 Two layers of gypsum shaftliner board applied vertically and friction fit into vertical 25-gage steel “H” members, 1-½-in. [38.1 mm] deep for boards ¾-in. [19.0 mm] thick or 2-in. [50.8 mm] deep for boards 1-in. [25.4 mm] thick, spaced 24-in. [610 mm] on centers and 25-gage steel track at the perimeter of the partition. “H” members shall be formed with a single web or shall be two pieces of perimeter track fastened together along the web with screws spaced 24-in. [610 mm] on centers.

4.3.3.2 Temperature rise on the unexposed surface shall be measured using not less than five thermocouples; one shall be located at the center of the assembly and one shall be located at the center of each quadrant. Thermocouples shall be located not less than 3-in. [76 mm] from an “H” member.

4.4 Gypsum wallboard, gypsum backing board, exterior gypsum soffit board, and gypsum ceiling board shall have a flame spread index of not more than 25 when tested in accordance with Test Method E 84.

4.5 *Physical Properties, Dimensions, and Tolerances of Gypsum Board:*

4.5.1 Specimens shall be taken from the samples obtained in accordance with Specification C 1264.

4.5.1.1 Specimens shall be tested in accordance with Test Methods C 473.

4.5.2 *Core, End, and Edge Hardness*—The specimens shall have an average hardness of not less than 15 lbf [67 N] when tested by Method A and 11 lbf [49 N] when tested by Method B.

4.5.3 *Edges and Ends*—The edges and ends shall be straight.

4.5.4 *Length*—The tolerance in length shall be ±¼ in. [±6 mm].

4.5.5 *Tapered Edge Depth*—The average thickness of the edge of recessed or tapered edge gypsum board shall be not less than 0.020 in. [0.51 mm] but not more than 0.090 in. [2.29 mm] less than the average thickness of the gypsum board.

5. Gypsum Wallboard and Predecorated Gypsum Board

5.1 *Physical Properties of Gypsum Wallboard and Predecorated Gypsum Board:*

5.1.1 *Flexural Strength*—The specimens shall be tested face up and face down. The average breaking load shall be not less than the following:

| Thickness, in. [mm] | Method A | Method A | Method B | Method B |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | Bearing Edges Perpendicular to Panel Length, lbf [N] | Bearing Edges Parallel to Panel Length, lbf [N] | Bearing Edges Perpendicular to Panel Length, lbf [N] | Bearing Edges Parallel to Panel Length, lbf [N] |
| ¼ [6.4] | 50 [222] | 20 [89] | 46 [205] | 16 [71] |
| ⅕ [7.9] | 65 [289] | 25 [111] | 62 [276] | 21 [93] |
| ⅜ [9.5] | 80 [356] | 30 [133] | 77 [343] | 26 [116] |
| ½ [12.7] | 110 [489] | 40 [178] | 107 [476] | 36 [160] |
| ⅝ [15.9] | 150 [667] | 50 [222] | 147 [654] | 46 [205] |
| ¾ [19.0] | 170 [756] | 60 [267] | 167 [743] | 56 [249] |

5.1.2 *Humidified Deflection*—The specimens shall have an average deflection of not more than the following:

| Thickness, in. [mm] | Deflection, eighths of an inch [mm] |
|------------------------|--|
| ¼ [6.4] | not required |
| ⅕ [7.9] | not required |
| ⅜ [9.5] | 15 [48] |
| ½ [12.7] | 10 [32] |
| ⅝ [15.9] | 5 [16] |
| ¾ [19.0] | 5 [16] |

5.1.3 *Nail Pull Resistance*—The specimens shall have an average nail-pull resistance of not less than the following:

| Thickness, in. [mm] | Method A, lbf [N] | Method B, lbf [N] |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| ¼ [6.4] | 40 [178] | 36 [160] |
| ⅕ [7.9] | 50 [222] | 46 [205] |
| ⅜ [9.5] | 60 [267] | 56 [249] |
| ½ [12.7] | 80 [356] | 77 [343] |
| ⅝ [15.9] | 90 [400] | 87 [387] |
| ¾ [19.0] | 100 [445] | 97 [432] |

5.1.4 *Foil-Backed Gypsum Wallboard and Foil-Backed Predecorated Gypsum Board:*

5.1.4.1 Foil-backed gypsum wallboard and foil-backed predecorated gypsum board shall meet all of the requirements for gypsum wallboard and predecorated gypsum board.

5.1.4.2 When tested in accordance with Test Methods E 96, the permeance of foil-backed gypsum wallboard and foil-backed predecorated gypsum board shall be not more than 0.30 perm [17 ng/Pa·s·m²] (Desiccant Method) for the condition of 50 % relative humidity on the face of the board, and 0 % relative humidity on the back (foil-covered) side of the board.

5.2 *Dimensions and Tolerances of Gypsum Wallboard and Predecorated Gypsum Board:*

5.2.1 *Thickness*—The nominal thickness shall be from ¼ to ¾ in. [6.4 to 19.0 mm] with tolerances in the nominal thickness of ± 1/64 in. [±0.4 mm], and with local variations of ± 1/32 in. [±0.8 mm] from the nominal thickness.

5.2.2 *Width*—The width shall be up to 48 in. [1220 mm], or up to 54 in. [1370 mm], with a tolerance of 3/32 in. [3 mm] under the specified width.

5.2.3 *End Squareness*—Corners shall be square with a tolerance of ± 1/8 in. [±3 mm] in the full width of the board.

5.3 *Edges:*

5.3.1 The edges of gypsum wallboard shall be either square, beveled, featured, tapered, or featured and tapered.

5.3.2 The edges of predecorated gypsum board shall be either square, beveled, or featured.

6. Gypsum Backing Board, Gypsum Coreboard, and Gypsum Shaftliner Board

6.1 *Physical Properties of Gypsum Backing Board and Gypsum Coreboard:*

6.1.1 *Flexural Strength*—The specimens shall be tested face up and face down. The average breaking load shall be not less than the following:

| Thickness, in. [mm] | Method A | Method A | Method B | Method B |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | Bearing Edges Perpendicular to Panel Length, lbf [N] | Bearing Edges Parallel to Panel Length, lbf [N] | Bearing Edges Perpendicular to Panel Length, lbf [N] | Bearing Edges Parallel to Panel Length, lbf [N] |
| ¼ [6.4] | 50 [222] | 20 [89] | 46 [205] | 16 [71] |
| ⅕ [7.9] | 65 [289] | 30 [133] | 77 [343] | 26 [116] |
| ⅜ [9.5] | 80 [356] | 40 [178] | 107 [476] | 36 [160] |
| ½ [12.7] | 110 [489] | 50 [222] | 137 [609] | 46 [205] |
| ⅝ [15.9] | 140 [622] | 60 [267] | 167 [743] | 56 [249] |
| ¾ [19.0] | 170 [756] | 80 [356] | 228 [1014] | 77 [343] |

6.1.2 *Humidified Deflection*—The specimens shall have an average deflection of not more than the following:

| Thickness, in. [mm] | Deflection, eighths of an inch [mm] |
|------------------------|--|
| ¼ [6.4] | not required |
| ⅕ [7.9] | 15 [48] |
| ⅜ [9.5] | 10 [32] |
| ½ [12.7] | 5 [16] |
| ⅝ [15.9] | not required |
| ¾ [19.0] | not required |

6.1.3 *Nail Pull Resistance*—The specimens shall have an average nail-pull resistance of not less than the following:

| Thickness, in. [mm] | Method A, lbf [N] | Method B, lbf [N] |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| ¼ [6.4] | 40 [178] | 36 [160] |
| ⅕ [7.9] | 60 [267] | 56 [249] |
| ⅜ [9.5] | 80 [356] | 77 [343] |
| ½ [12.7] | 90 [400] | 87 [387] |
| ⅝ [15.9] | not required | not required |
| ¾ [19.0] | not required | not required |

6.1.4 *Foil-Backed Gypsum Backing Board and Foil-Backed Gypsum Coreboard:*

6.1.4.1 Foil-backed gypsum backing board and foil-backed gypsum coreboard shall meet all of the requirements for gypsum backing board and gypsum coreboard.

6.1.4.2 When tested in accordance with Test Methods E 96, the permeance of foil-backed gypsum backing board and foil-backed gypsum coreboard shall be not more than 0.30 perm [17 ng/Pa·s·m²] (Desiccant Method) for the condition of 50 % relative humidity on the face of the board, and 0 % relative humidity on the back (foil-covered) side of the board.

6.2 *Dimensions and Tolerances of Gypsum Backing Board and Gypsum Coreboard:*

6.2.1 *Thickness*—The nominal thickness shall be from ¼ to 1 in. [6.4 to 25.4 mm] with tolerances in the nominal thickness of ± 1/32 in. [±0.8 mm], and with local variations of ± 1/16 in. [±1.6 mm] from the nominal thickness.

6.2.2 *Width*—The width shall be from 16 to 48 in. [406 to 1220 mm] with a tolerance of 1/8 in. [3.2 mm] under the specified width.

6.2.3 *End Squareness*—Corners shall be square with a tolerance of ± 1/8 in. [±3 mm] in the full width of the board.