



Designation: **F1482–04 (Reapproved 2009)^{ε1} F1482 – 15**

Standard Practice for Installation and Preparation of Panel Type Underlayments to Receive Resilient Flooring¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F1482; 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.

^{ε1} NOTE—Removed the year/date from ANSI/A208.1 and ANSI/AHA A135.4 editorially in May 2009.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice includes recommendations for the installation of panel type underlayments including wood based, fiber reinforced gypsum and fiber-cement panel underlayment/subfloor assemblies upon which resilient flooring may be installed.

1.2 The structural integrity of subfloor assemblies is governed by local building codes.

1.3 This practice does not supersede in any manner the resilient flooring, underlayment or adhesive manufacturer's written instructions. Consult the individual resilient flooring, underlayment or adhesive manufacturer for specific recommendations. Manufacturer's instructions supercede the recommendations included in this practice.

1.4 See Supplementary Requirements for "Select Warnings" that have been provided.

1.5 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.6 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[C1278/C1278M Specification for Fiber-Reinforced Gypsum Panel](#)

[C1288 Specification for Discrete Non-Asbestos Fiber-Cement Interior Substrate Sheets](#)

[F141 Terminology Relating to Resilient Floor Coverings](#)

2.2 *ANSI Standards:*

[ANSI/A208.1 Particleboard](#)³

[ANSI/AHA A135.4 Basic Hardboard](#)³

2.3 *NIST Standards:*

[Voluntary Product Standard PS1-95PS 1-10 for Construction and Industrial Structural Plywood](#)^{3,4}

[Voluntary Product Standard PS2-92PS 2-10 for Performance Standard Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels](#)^{3,4}

2.4 *Other Documents:*

[APA Engineered Wood Construction Guide, Form E30](#)⁵

[APA Data File: Selection, Installation and Preparation of Plywood Underlayment for Resilient Flooring, Form L335](#)⁵

[Resilient Floor Covering Institute \(RFCI\) Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings \(January 1998\)](#)⁶

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F06 on Resilient Floor Coverings and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F06.40 on Practices. Current edition approved May 1, 2009 April 15, 2015. Published July 2009 June 2015. Originally approved in 1994. Last previous edition approved in 2004 2009 as F1482–04-04(2009)^{ε1}. DOI: 10.1520/F1482-04R09E01-10.1520/F1482-15.

² For 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.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

⁴ Available from National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), 100 Bureau Dr., Stop 1070, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1070, <http://www.nist.gov>.

⁵ Available from APA—The Engineered Wood Association, 7011 S. 19th St., Tacoma, WA 98466–5399, www.apawood.org.

⁶ Resilient Floor Covering Institute, 401 E. Jefferson Suite 102 Rockville, MD 20850, www.rfci.com.

Lead-Based Paint: [Interim Guidelines for Hazard Identification and Abatement in Public and Indian housing \(1991 revised\)](#)⁷

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions used in this standard shall be in accordance with Terminology **F141**.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *fully adhered flooring*—resilient flooring which has adhesive under the entire product, bonding it to the underlayment surface.

3.2.2 *non fully adhered flooring*—resilient flooring that may be loose laid, in which no adhesive is utilized, or partially bonded to the surface of the underlayment, typically at seams or the surrounding perimeter, or both, of the product.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This practice provides minimum recommendations for the installation and preparation of wood-based, fiber-reinforced gypsum and fiber-cement panel underlayments suitable to receive resilient floor coverings. Actual requirements for materials to be used, mixtures, and other details are generally included as part of project plans or specification detail and may vary from the minimum recommendations set forth in this practice.

5. Underlayments

5.1 There are several types of panel underlayment available over which selective resilient flooring products may be installed.

5.2 *Plywood*, underlayment grade plywood, complying with **PS1-95**, **PS 1-10**, is composed of veneer plies and layers that are glued together with adhesive. The grain orientation of the face veneers has grain running in the long direction of the panel. The inner veneers often alternate in grain direction, but may be oriented in the same direction as adjacent inner veneers. Other sanded plywood grades are suitable for underlayment applications. APA Form E30 and Form L335 provide additional information.

5.3 *Oriented Strand Board (OSB)*, complying with **PS2-92**, **PS 2-10**, is made of thin narrow strands of hardwoods and softwoods that are longer than they are wide. The strands are dried, screened, blended with adhesive and formed into a multi-layered mat. In the surface layer, the long axes of the strands are oriented so that they are in general parallel with the long direction of the panel. The strands in the inner layers may not be oriented in any particular direction or may be generally oriented perpendicular to the long direction of the panel. OSB is not generally recommended as underlayment for fully adhered resilient floor systems but is permitted for some underlayment applications. APA form E30 provides additional information.

5.4 *Fiber-Cement Underlayment*, complying with Specification **C1288**, is a discrete non-asbestos fiber-reinforced cement flat sheet consisting essentially of an inorganic hydraulic binder formed by the chemical reaction of a siliceous material and a calcareous material reinforced by organic fibers, non-asbestos inorganic fibers, or both.

5.5 *Gypsum Fiber Panel*, underlayment, complying with Specification **C1278/C1278M**.

5.6 *Particleboard*, complying with ANSI/A208.1, is manufactured from lignocellulosic materials (usually wood) primarily in the form of discrete pieces or particles, combined with a synthetic resin or other suitable binder and bonded together under heat and pressure in a hot press.

5.7 *Hardboard*, complying with ANSI/AHA A135.4, is a panel manufactured primarily from inter-felted lignocellulosic fibers, which are consolidated under heat and pressure in a heated press. Hardboards are not generally recommended as an underlayment for resilient floors.

~~5.8 *Waferboard* is made of thin wafers of wood that are usually equal in width and length. The wood wafers are dried, screened, blended with adhesive and pressed.~~

~~5.9 *Composite Panels* are veneer-faced panels, manufactured by bonding reconstituted wood between wood veneers in a typical three or five layer construction.~~

6. Selection of Panel Underlayment

6.1 *General Consideration:*

6.2 Lifestyle, cost constraints, desired pattern aesthetics, and so forth, can affect which resilient product and panel underlayment should be selected. The resilient manufacturer's product information and installation recommendations should be reviewed prior to purchase. Some resilient manufacturer's literature offers specific recommendations or prohibitions as to types of underlayments for use under their flooring products.

6.3 There are two major categories of resilient flooring installation techniques:

6.3.1 Fully adhered, and

6.3.2 Non fully adhered (perimeter or loose laid).

⁷ U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Washington, DC, www.hud.gov.